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THE COMMERCIAL, PITTSBURGH.

THE FINANCIAL PROBLEM.

Letter to a Member of Congress on the Currency and Funding Bills.

HON. ——: The National banking system thus far, notwithstanding it has been loaded with heavy burdens, has been almost a universal success, and has exceeded the most sanguine expectations of its founders and friends. It has provided a safe and uniform currency for the whole of our widely extended domain. It has aided the finances of the nation by absorbing some four hundred millions of its bonds, and is giving direct and constant aid by the payment of over ten millions of taxes to the General Government and eight millions of taxes under State laws, annually, besides affording incalculable banking facilities to the people. And all this for a very small return for the capital invested by the stockholders, which, as far as my knowledge extends, does not equal the interest realized by private money lenders.

But there are portentous clouds now in the horizon which threaten to overwhelm this system in destruction, and of which I fear statesmen are not aware. I consider the currency bill which has passed the Senate to be the first gun in the attack on the National Banks. I have no objection to giving more bank capital, and more bank circulation to the South and West, but it should be done without infringing on, what I consider, the vested rights of National Banks already in existence. But there is another feature in this bill to which I do most strennously object, not so much on account of the magnitude of the sum which it abstracts from the profits of the banks, for I do think it a most pitiful consideration for what I deem a violation of good faith. But because I look upon it as an entering wedge into the compact between the banks and the Government, which, if driven home, as is indicated by the provisions of the funding bill, will split the whole system into fragments. The feature to which I now allude, is that by which the National Banks that hold a few thousand dollars of the three per cent. certificates are to be forcibly deprived of them, and this little pittance of profit taken from them.

If there was any sense of economy in regard to the public debt, there would be the last securities redeemed. They draw the lowest rate of interest of any portion of the public securities, and are payable, principal and interest, in currency. Furthermore, the interest is not payable periodically, as the other interest, but only when the certificate shall be presented for payment. Surely the banks might be allowed to hold this kind of securities, according to the original intention of the law of their creation, as long as they choose to lay out of both principal and interest.

But this, as I said, is only the entering wedge. Next comes the funding bill, which has now passed the Senate, by a small majority, as I am made at the National Banks, in a most vulnerable and vital point. The bill provides for the issue of four hundred millions, each of 4½ and 5 per cent. bonds, in the aggregate of twelve hundred millions. How is it proposed to convert the 6 per cent. bonds into these? There is no available mode of compulsion proposed in the bill but one, and that is that the banks are made the victims, by forcing them to take 4½ and 5 per cent. bonds in equal proportions, and surrender their six per cents now held by them and deposited with the Treasurer of the United States as security for their circulation and Government deposits, on pain of the loss of their franchise. This is republican? This is a bare-faced fraud. Here is the point where it is very desirable that Congressmen should pause and consider the consequences, before they take a step which is calculated to demolish and crripple the National Banking system at a blow.

The profits of the National Banks have already been considerably reduced by the fall in gold, which reduction will continue as gold recedes towards par. This of itself renders it very probable that many of the National Banks, which, with the present rate of profit is premium, have only made fair dividends, will close up on this account without any other cause, unless counteracted by a reduction of taxation, or by some other mode of marking up the deficiency caused thereby.

But when it is proposed to reduce the interest on their bonds one-third, I hazard nothing in predicting that if this measure is adopted, you will see such a stampede among National Banks as will astonish the people. Already we are informed that banks have given notice of closing up, whose capital amount to four millions of dollars. No doubt because they find it under present circumstances, an unprofitable investment, and if the measures I have been recently passing under review become a law, another amount will soon reach $100,000,000 of capital or more.

So far from the National Banks in general being able to bear additional burdens or restrictions, it will be absolutely necessary for the preservation of the system, to relieve them of some of those already imposed upon them.

I have been astonished at some of the chimerical ideas on the subject of banking that have been from time to time made public, and can only attribute them to great ignorance, or to an innate hostility to the whole system. I am well aware that banks, almost from time immemorial, have been made the political football, to be kicked first by one party, then the other. But when a system has been organized by the National Government, which promises, if given a fair opportunity, to be the most perfect system of banking in the world, it is certainly the duty of the power which created it, to use all their wisdom and authority to render it perfect and permanent, and to commune to it that vitality which its usefulness or threaten its destruction.

In relation to the objects of the currency bill, I may say that after the resumption of specie payments, I should be willing to see all banking under the provisions of the National Banking law. That is, of removing the restrictions as to the number, locality, amount of capital and circulation in the aggregate. Let these be regulated by the necessities and conveniences of the country, as any redundancy of the circulation will be corrected by running it home for redemption in coin. But for the present I would allow new banks to be organized in those States not having their full proportion of banking capital, with the privilege of increasing the National Bank circulation not exceeding fifty millions of dollars in any one year. And to prevent any increase of the aggregate volume of currency, which should be scrupulously avoided, as National Bank notes are issued to new banks beyond the present limit of $300,000,000, legal tender notes to the same amount should be withdrawn and cancelled. I would reduce the circulation fifty millions per annum, because the Treasury should not appropriate a greater amount to the cancellation of legal tenders in any one year, and to prevent a sudden contraction of the legal tender currency, and thus avoid a commercial panic, which would inevitably follow a rapid diminution of the currency.

A few words in regard to the funding bill. We may appreciate the object as a desirable one—the reduction of the amount of interest payable by the Government. But no honorable citizen could consent to repudiate the liabilities of the Government at the expense of its honor and integrity. The Government has secured an advantage by reserving the right to pay off a large portion of the bonds at any time after five years from their date. And if it adheres to its repeatedly declared obligation to pay them off in coin, it has an unquestionable right to do so. But the sentiment that the day for that has not yet come. Therefore the true policy is to wait patiently until it does arrive; which I am of the opinion will not be very long if the Government is very careful to do nothing to disturb or arrest the reviving prosperity of the country; either by disturbing the currency, or checking the industrial pursuits of the people by giving foreign nations the possession of our securities.

There is an absurdity on the face of the bill if it is intended for present operation. The first, second and third sections provide for the issue of twelve hundred millions of bonds, bearing interest at 5, 4½ and 4 per cent. per annum, and that these bonds shall be sold by the Secretary of the Treasury at *not less than par in gold*. Now, on the supposition that the Secretary can realize one dollar on these bonds on these terms, when at this moment the five per cent. gold bonds of the United States are selling for a premium of five per cent. bonds of the bill, and consequently superior to the 4 and 4½ per cents, are selling from six to ten per cent, below par in gold? But this bill has ingeniously been framed to create a market for some 300 millions of these bonds, couched in section eight, whereby the National Banks are compelled, on pain of wrath, to take these 4 and 4½ per cent. bonds, and four per cent. bonds, not at their choice, but an equal amount of each kind, and surrender the six per cent. bonds, at present on deposit with the Treasurer of the United States as security for their circulation. This is a forced loan of the worst description. It is more unmerciful than that of King John, when he ordered that seventh Jew should have a tooth extracted every day until he complied with the King's demand for a loan. Because in the case of the banks, if this bill with these provisions should become a law, it will extract their life blood, and hundreds of them must die.

It was remarked by a Senator while the funding bill was under discussion, that the "banks should be willing to aid the Government in reducing the interest on the public debt, and if they are not willing they can retire." The banks have been and continue to be willing to do everything in reason for Government that is in their power, but where its demands involve their existence, they will have no alternative but to *retire*. And if this bill is passed you will realize it, when, perhaps, too late to save the system.

If it is the object of Congress, which I cannot doubt, to give every facility and encouragement to investment, every proposition affecting the banks as these do, should be referred to the Committee on Banks and Banking in either House, which I presume are constituted with majorities favorable to these institutions, and to which they look for a fair and candid consideration of all questions and propositions concerning them, before final action by the House.

Let the national banks be annihilated by the passage of the currency and funding bills in their present shape, and let the agriculturer and manufacturers of the country be broken down by the adoption of David Wells' tariff scheme, and we shall again commence a repetition of the financial history of the United States from 1816 to 1821, which I desire our statesmen to study as eminently applicable to the present times, if measures such as these are to be carried into execution by the Government.

With hopes that Congress will sustain the National Banking system, which has worked so well for the country,

I remain, with great respect,

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

In his address before the Grand Army of the Republic to honor the memory of Gen. Tuomas, Gen. Logan made the following appropriate quotations:

"Bethink ye of the day
When to the field the hero led the way!
In all the pride of manhood's noblest prime,
In knightly armor and in martial time
Glad, active, vigorous—who is now at rest!
How he spurred around him with his mettle eye,
Leapt the dark rocks that frowned against the sky
Grasped the bright sword and curbed the panting steed,
Bid his bold battle at the break of the morn.
Bid his bold battle at the break of the morn.

"I tow lies the hero now, whose spoken name
Can d fire with glory, with courage inflame;
Low lies the arm of might the form of pride,
While comrades sad are weeping by his side."

As a sample of how dignity and simplicity may sustain one another, we know of none superior to Crashaw's epitaph upon Mr. Ashton, a "conformable citizen," and a "truly honest man":

One whose conscience was a thing
That troubled neither church nor king;
One of those few that in this town
Honor all preaching; hear their own.
Sermons he heard, yet not so many
As left no time to practice any;
He heard them reverently, and then
His practice preached them o er again.

At the same time that the border raid bill was defeated in our Legislature, a similar one was strangled in Ohio. In that State it was proposed to tax the people some two millions of dollars to pay for John Morgan's raid. One bill was a good deal heavier, but then Lee was a more distinguished raider than Morgan. Both bills, however, have now met the fate of the raiders—defeat.

A report to the French Minister of Instruction, shows that since 1869, when the first horsefleshmart was opened, to the end of 1898, no less than 5,676 prancing steeds were ruthlessly slaughtered to supply the demand of the Parisian hippophagists. One good turn deserves another, so possibly a Parisian thinks that after being carried for years by his horse, it is only fair that the horse should in turn be carried by him.

The Mississippi river is open at Prairie du Chien, and from the foot of Lake Pepin to the Sauk, a boat has gone from La Crosse to Winona.

We have the testimony of the Warden of the Iowa Penitentiary, corroborated by that of a Legislative committee, that Sunday Schools have a far better effect than the ordinary rod and o'-nine tails. Even the most incorrigible wretches fear a compelled absence from the Sunday School more than they formerly feared a punishment by the lash.

A few days since, in a Vermont town, two men started for the woods to blow open some logs, with a can of powder in their sleigh. One of them was smoking, and when he finished and his pipe was knocked out before the fire was extinguished. As the result, the men suddenly found themselves in the snow by the roadside, but with no injuries more serious than singed hair and whiskers.

A letter from Mississippi complains of the general stagnation of business, and the writer thinks the situation will not improve much until the State ceases to raise cotton. Cotton manufactories and small-class farmers he considers to be the principal wants of the State, and the latter would probably soon follow the former's example. Such a change is more quiet than most of the Southern States.

A Dutchman, in describing a pair of horses he had lost, said: "Day was very much alike, and they do off one. One have no mooch alike poth I could not tell t'oder from of he were, I went after one, I always caught de oder; and I whipped de one most dead because de oder kicked me."

The following cute paragraph is by the Philadelphia *Press*: "It is clear that Johnson couldn't cut another circle inside our territorial limits; hence the necessity for enlarging his field of action."

The devil-fish of Victor Hugo's fiction has its counterpart. A crab caught in Yokohama Bay weighed about forty pounds, had legs over five feet in length, and its mouth contained two large teeth. When in the water its strength was such that it could easily overpower a man. This horrible ghoul, as if attracted by that appalling calamity, was found clinging to the masthead of the recently sunken steamer Onieda. A taxidermist in Yokohama is preparing the dead monster for exhibition.

A New York paper says: It is satisfactory to hear that the Elevated Railway for city passenger transit from Battery place, on the west side of town in the direction of Yonkers, to which point the present concession extends, is proving a decided success. The cars are now running from Battery place to Fifty-first street, and experimental or excursion trips have been frequent in the last few days at the speed of sixteen or seventeen minutes each way. The one drawback is that for the present there is only one track.

The Committee in one branch of the Massachusetts Legislature on Woman Suffrage has reported a resolve providing for an amendment to the Constitution by striking out the word "male," so that women shall hereafter vote and hold office on the same terms and conditions as men, and on one condition. The committee express the opinion that it will be well for the people to vote on the question, as the best way to allay agitation on the subject.

Mr. Prosser, member of Congress from the Fifth District of Tennessee, is said to be still the first to succeed in getting a colored boy into the West Point Military Academy. He has appointed as a cadet to that Institution Alonzo Napier, colored, of Shelbyville, and he, Mr. Prosser says, is thoroughly qualified and will pass an examination.

A Baltimore correspondent writes: Thunder sours milk and kills oysters. You may load a vessel to its utmost capacity with oysters, and one good round clap of thunder will kill every oyster in the vessel, immediately. Pounding with an ax upon the deck of a vessel when oysters are thereon, or pounding upon the side of a vessel with a heavy weight, will kill every oyster that feels the jar.

The New York *Shipping List* gives a comparison of the wholesale prices of 121 articles on the 8th of September, 1869, and March 1, 1870, and in only 21 out of the 121 has there been an increase of price. The decrease has been from 12 to 16 per cent. The London *Economist*, in publishing the same statistics, says: "We can see, therefore, why gold is not exported from New York, though its value has fallen so much, for the value of other articles fitted for export to Europe has fallen as much or more."

There can be no question that on the intelligence and virtue of the people depends the stability of our national existence. Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts, recognizes this truth in the introduction of a bill in our National House of Representatives for the establishment of a system of National education, in one section of which it is made the duty of the General Government to impress upon the minds of children and youth "the principles of piety and justice, and a sacred regard for truth, love of country, of industry, humanity and universal benevolence, sobriety, industry, and frugality, chastity, moderation and temperance, and those other virtues which are the ornaments of human society and the basis upon which a republican constitution is founded." While such cardinal virtues instilled into our children, we could not fail to become a model nation.

THOSE who are seeking to perpetuate the imposition of the Income Tax upon the people of the United States have a difficult task to accomplish. Usables fall in almost entire press of the country in the denunciation, and against the solemn protestations of the people, there are grave objections in a legal point of view. It is well known that quite a number of the large corporations are compelled to pay a percent of income tax on their dividends, which they hold are not due after 1869. This must necessarily greatly embarrass the Internal Revenue Department, and necessitate the renewed action of the Senate and cause interminable debate in both Houses.

THE trial of the Rev. Horace Cook, whose recent elopement with Miss Johnson at New York was the cause of wide-spread scandal, will take place during the present session of the Methodist Episcopal Conference in that city. It is said, however, that Mr. Cook will not put the Conference to the trouble of appointing a committee of investigation, but will simply acknowledge his crime and throw himself upon the mercy of his judges; the result of which will probably be his suspension from ministerial functions. Many of the friends of the Conference charitably believe in his insanity at the time.

THE desire to get rid of mere party politicians who, for years past, have filled the public offices is the excellent feature of the present years to be spreading in every direction. The latest development is in Hudson county, New Jersey, where the people, tired of being made to order, have rallied and formed a Citizens' Association, for the selection of honest municipal officers, and have put a ticket, composed of men of all parties, who are opposed to the extravagant management of public moneys, to wild speculative schemes to which they were not intended to be applied.

THE German Democrats of New York are not satisfied with the new city charter. Their chief objection to it, as expressed by the *Staats Zeitung*, their organ, is that while it abolishes the Republican Commissions, it transfers their powers to a political clique, and does not restore them to the people or the city, who are as helpless under the new charter as they were under the system it supplants. They, however, stand in a position of dissatisfied acquiescence, looking to future legislation for a remedy.

THE Washington *Chronicle* says that "Mr. Garrett is building a railway from Pittsburgh to Chicago." This is a pleasant piece of information and decidedly new. Will the *Chronicle* state what is the route, and when the road will be completed?

OMNIBUS RAILROAD BILL.

VETO OF GOVERNOR GEARY.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
HARRISBURG, April 7, 1870.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

GENTLEMEN—Senate bill No. 1070, entitled "An act to facilitate and secure the construction of an additional railway connection between the waters of the Susquehanna and the great lakes, Canada and the northwestern States by extending the aid and credit of certain corporations to the Jersey Shore, Pine Creek and Buffalo Railway Company, and in like manner to aid the construction of the Pittsburgh, Virginia and Charleston Railway, Clearfield and Buffalo Railway, and the Erie and Allegheny Railway," was only presented for executive approval on yesterday, the 6th inst.

Regarding it as among the most important ever submitted for consideration, both in the principles it involves, and the consequences of my action thereon, I have examined it with as much care as was possible in the short time allowed, and the pressure of other duties at this late stage of the session. For these reasons it would have been desirable that the views about to be announced, should have been the subject of more mature reflection. Entertaining, however, firm convictions that the proposed measure is not only in conflict with the Constitution, but at war with the best interests and true policy of the State, it is deemed an imperative duty to guard against all possible misconstruction by returning the bill promptly to the Senate, in which it originated, with the following statement of the reasons for withholding my approval.

There are in the sinking fund of the State nine and one-half million of dollars ($9,500,000) in railroad bonds, viz: $6,000,000 in bonds of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and $3,500,000 of the bonds of the Allegheny Valley Railroad Company, the payment of the interest upon which by the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company, the Northern Central Railway Company, and by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. These $9,500,000 are a part of the proceeds of the sale of the main line of the public works, sold in 1857, and the $3,500,000 are bonds substituted for a like amount of bonds which were proceeds of the sale of other portions of the public works, made subsequent to 1857. The whole $9,500,000, therefore, are proceeds of the sales of public improvements formerly owned by the State; and the bill under consideration, if approved, will take this entire sum out of the sinking fund and distribute it among four railroad companies named in the bill, in the proportions therein recited.

In the consideration of this most important subject two questions naturally arise:

First, Has the Legislature the constitutional power to enact this law? and

Second, If the power exists, is it expedient to exercise it?

If the first question be answered in the negative, the last should not be considered. If in the affirmative, then the second question assumes a grave importance. What then are the written constitutional provisions bearing upon the subject? The latter clause of the twenty-fifth section of the first article of the Constitution declares that:

"No law hereafter enacted shall create, renew or extend the charter of more than one corporation."

The eighth section of the eleventh article is as follows:

"No bill shall be passed by the Legislature containing more than one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in the title, except appropriation bills."

The proposed act is not an appropriation bill within the recognized meaning of the terms of the fundamental law. Every one familiar with the history of our State Government must know the objects for which these clauses were inserted and adopted. Our State had been cursed in the past by legislation, enacted by what in common parlance was known as "omnibus" bills—systems of log-rolling. Measures which alone could not stand upon their merits, and which often had no merits on which to stand, were fastened together in one bill, and by ingenious combinations, sometimes corrupt, sometimes incongruous, and sometimes iniquitous provisions were forced into laws. Bills of this kind—Essentially diverse, conflicting, and even rival and hostile interests and parties, who could not unite in a common raid upon the Treasury of the State, or in any other legislation, were compelled to

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1870.

MAKING ALL PAYS ALIKE.

Not many weeks ago the telegraph informed the public that the California Legislature had repealed the clause of the Sunday law which prohibited theatricals on the sacred day. How this action of their Legislators is regarded or has been received by the majority of their constituents, we are quite unable to conjecture. The population of the Pacific coast is very heterogeneous, and contains, probably, a larger proportion of the class known in England as secularists, than any other State in the Union. By much the greater number of citizens on this side of the Rocky Mountains, we are sure, the report of this legislative action has been heard of with sincere regret. And such regret is, by no means, confined to those who entertain what are called strict views of Sabbath observance. On the other hand, there are doubtless a good many who look with favor upon all measures towards the abrogation of Sunday, or tending to abolish the established mode of keeping it. The Romans, we learn from one of their own poets, made it a reproach to the Jews that "with them the seventh day was a day of idleness, and did not belong to any part of life;" and in the last century a party in England took up this objection in applying with equal force to Christians. The reproach was repelled by Dean SWIFT in the following passage of his "Argument Against Abolishing Christianity:"

> "Another advantage proposed by the abolishing of Christianity is the clear gain of one day in seven, which is now a free holiday, and consequently the kingdom one-seventh less considerable in trade, business and pleasure, besides the loss to the public of so many structures, now in the hands of the clergy, which might be converted into *play-houses*, market houses, exchanges, common dormitories, and other public edifices.
>
> "I hope I shall be forgiven a hard word, if I call this a perfect cavil. I readily own there has been an old custom, time out of mind, for people to assemble in the churches every Sunday, and that shops are still frequently shut, in order, as it is conceived, to preserve the memory of that ancient practice: but how this can prove a hindrance to business or pleasure is hard to imagine. What if the men of pleasure are forced to spend one day in the week at home instead of the coffee-houses and *chocolates*? Are not the taverns open *for taking a dose of physic?* Is not a *more convenient day for hunters to sum up the accounts of the week, than for lawyers?* Is *Sunday* a day set apart for devotion, and to know how it can be pretended that the churches are misapplied? Where can the fair sex have more rendezvous of gallantry? Where more care to appear in their best clothes, by which people of all degrees distinguish their quality, than at church? Where more meetings for business? Where more business driven at all sorts? And *where so many conveniences and inclements to sleep?*"

In this satirical passage we have a statement of those relaxations of rigorous Sabbath observance which have almost everywhere been allowed and indulged in by common consent—and which also have proved sufficient to reconcile the least devout to the existence and enforcement, when necessary, of the Sabbath law. That the institution of Sunday as established by long historical precedent and recognized by the law of the land is a blessing to the people, little argument would be required to prove. Indeed, few persons, at once well informed and given to reflection, entertain any doubts on the subject. We have not at present introduced the topic for the purpose of trying to remove such doubts where they may exist. We may, however, briefly refer to one or two considerations which are not always as much taken to account as they deserve to be. The religious argument has been often elaborated and insisted upon, and it is a striking evidence of the beneficent influence of our institutions and common schools that the people are not more secularized nor so doltish as to be indifferent to its weight, even when they happen not to feel personally interested in its appeals. But it is an important consideration that, quite apart from the religious relations of the subject, a large proportion of our lawyers, physicians, mechanics and business men of mature age, highly appreciate the opportunity of rest and leisure afforded by Sunday. On inquiry, too, it would probably be found that they are hostile to any change or concession in regard to the law likely to seriously affect the institution. It is also a significant fact that thoughtful foreigners who come or have been among us, whose habits are interfered with and whose prejudices are offended by our Sunday, yet often recognize its advantages. At this moment we recollect a learned German, rather a philosopher than a Christian, who delighted to point out the good results certain, as he thought, to flow from its popular observance. "The lamentable but inevitable consequence of the necessities of the condition of the people in other countries," he said, "is to make them of the earth earthy. To live involves an incessant struggle. What care they, how can they care for a life to come, while the present life gives them so much trouble? Its hard realities so absorb and stultify them that of another they can form no notion. Abstract, or scientific truth, even historical facts, possess no interest for them. But there in America on Sunday, multitudes of this very class, as well as people in easier circumstances, assemble in the churches, and listen with apparent attention, not only to old histories, but to the discussions more or less elaborate, of spiritual themes." And, then, in connection with the benefits thus diffused, he grew eloquent in the commendation of the American Sunday as a day of rest to all and of study and meditation to many. This view of the subject will, we think, bear the closest scrutiny without detriment to its soundness. In the existence and perpetuation of the present mode of observing the day, as a day not only of worship, but of popular instruction, it is not difficult to discern an invaluable agency for the personal and social elevation of the people and for the maintenance of our free institutions.

OUR LEGISLATORS.

There is much significance to be attached to the universal outcry against the Legislature that has just adjourned. It is no mere senseless fault-finding; it is something deeper, more deliberate and determined. The character of the Commonwealth, and the most vital interests of the people are involved. The language of the Philadelphia *Press* is: "Our dignity has been lowered—our property squandered—our rights violated—our remonstrances and instructions laughed at, and all by the men we have ourselves chosen to represent us and to administer our political estate. The blow is a gross affront of the propriety, of custom, and of law, and has openly committed fraud in the very making of the laws. As far as our Legislature is concerned, we have had the worst of rulers; and our case is better than that of the misgoverned people of other times only in that the term of our legislators is limited."

As for the remedy, the *Press* says:

> "Clearly, then, the remedy for the wrong we have suffered these years lies in the selection of our Representatives. It is the election of men with whom we have not been represented by men with whom a large portion of the better class of us would not associate, either socially or in business. It is useless, and it is not wise to say hard things of the whole body of the weak and incompetent and dishonest men whom we send to Harrisburg and invest with the most sacred trust committed to our care.
>
> "Each would-be member of this private business to the management of the class of men to whom we habitually commit the management of the public affairs. No member of Philadelphia's delegation would—and mean it—would commit his business house to the management of the Legislative delegation from this city. Should any bank of this city, or any insurance company, have seen its stock would sink to nothing in a single day. When we think calmly of it in fact we see how grossly culpable has been our own conduct.
>
> "Did we all do our personal duty the government of this State would reflect credit on every citizen of it—would cost little or nothing, and would in a little time, by the judicious development of our resources, bring wealth and prosperity to all. We can lay down a single rule which, if observed, would secure us all that any system of government can accomplish: *let every voter resolve, both at the primary and delegate elections, to vote for no man whom he would not be willing to meet in such executive capacity.*"

The *Press* fails to go far enough for the remedy. It will be found in a radical revision of the Constitution. Nothing short of this will reach the difficulty. For a single year the independent action suggested by our contemporary may measurably abate the evil, but it will not work a permanent cure. Let us, therefore, go at once to the seat of the difficulty, and there apply the only remedy. We invite the *Press* upon this ground. The people are right, and the measure is certain to carry.

IRELAND to human view seems as far from a condition of quiet as ever. When Mr. GLADSTONE was seen to undertake the work of pacification by removing or mitigating the abuses under which the island had suffered for centuries, the good hopes inspired by the fact appeared well warranted by the character and past career of the man. His great ability and moral earnestness and humanity are hardly questioned by his personal enemies, and certainly not by his political opponents. And the first measures of Irish reform introduced by him involved an amount of concession to Ireland and of self-sacrifice on the part of England so great that no other living statesman could have proposed them with any prospect of success, or without the certainty of political death to himself. But this course of splendid reform has been interrupted by the coercion bill, the provisions of which are nearly, if not quite as odiously and atrociously oppressive as any of the Tory enactments of the past. In fact, by this bill Mr. GLADSTONE has become the idol of the party who have so savagely denounced his former Irish measures. This bill is mentioned above as an interruption, but it is probably regarded by its mover and advocates as an essential part of the scheme of pacification which they have devised. They undoubtedly know that there is a considerable party in the island who do not desire its settlement under English rule, and who are resolved that no measures proposed for that end shall be deemed satisfactory, or prove effectual. This is the party in which Fenianism originated, and whose demonstrations in the form of Fenian outrages have produced the profound feeling of horror and disgust which reconciles English liberals to the harsh features of the obnoxious bill. A London letter published in a New York paper a few days ago, refers to this party in the following terms:

> "The Irish national party in Ireland itself, of course, continues to exist, and I do not fancy that they are likely to be soon appeased. I asked a very experienced Irish lawyer the other day, what effect he thought the Irish land bill would produce amongst the peasantry, and his answer was very simple indeed. 'It will not be satisfied,' said he, 'because their rents may still be raised. That is about the long and short of it. The peasantry really wished to get hold of somebody else's property, and neither will nor ought it ever to be more than I can say; but no measure which did not amount to giving it them, would really meet their demands. They required confiscation, and they have merely got a simplification and improvement of existing rights.'"

The existence and purposes of this party of Irreconcilables are recognized by the Ministry as facts to be dealt with according to their nature, and their resolute hostility is to be restrained or wholly repressed by the strong hand in the exercise of all the precautions demanded by a state of war. This seems to be the meaning of the Coercion bill. Happily we are concerned only to understand, if possible, the motives of its promoters. In this country we suppose that there is entire unanimity in its condemnation, and some of its features are so incompatible with cherished English traditions that it seems strange that they should have found approval among English Liberals. Such are the enactments of the Bill in restraint of the Irish Press. Our wonder is somewhat lessened when we learn that one of the law officers of the Crown, the Irish Solicitor General, read extracts from the New York *Irish Citizen* as specimens of the sort of appeals to rebellion and outrage frequently met with in the newspapers of Ireland. This proceeding surely merited the name conferred upon it by the editor of the Dublin *Nation*, it was "a fraud upon the House of Commons and a forging of false evidence against the Irish Press."

IN this country whenever a legislative body adjourns the public breathe freer. Eminently has this been the case in Pennsylvania of late years. Reason about it as you will, the fact is indisputable. For the adjournment of the Legislature of this State, an event which took place on Thursday, our people sincerely thankful. The reasons are various. It was but natural that with nearly twenty-five hundred separate bills on the calendar, that there should be a lively apprehension that a vast amount of unwise and injurious legislation would be the result. More than one half of that number of bills passed both houses and by far the larger proportion will go upon the statute books. It cannot be otherwise than that almost as a general thing this vast amount of legislation should be without due deliberation. Properly considered very much of it would have been revised in many important respects or rejected altogether. Very many of these laws have been passed simply on their title being read, only a small number, and some of them personally interested perhaps, knowing what they contained. Such legislation is scandalous, and goes far to fix in the public mind the conviction that our Legislature is a nuisance which ought to be abated by a constitutional convention. It is impossible to say of what laws have been passed. We only know that the proportion of a local and private character compared to those of a public character is very great. Upward of one hundred and thirty applicable to Pittsburgh and Allegheny county alone have been ground out. No man in his senses will pretend that a tenth part of this number should ever have been heard of at Harrisburg. How far public sentiment has been responded to in this amount of legislation affecting us here, more especially what has been done to satisfy the reasonable demands for substituting for the enormous perquisites proper salaries in connection with some of our local offices, and to what extent in this particular our representatives deserve the approval of their constituents, is yet to be determined. Our system should be altered so as to lodge with local tribunals the power to take care of our domestic affairs. So great and furious was the rush for local and private legislation that scarcely any time was allowed for considering bills of a general and public character; so that the class of questions which should have been most patiently considered and the business which should have been most carefully matured received very little attention. We are glad to know that GEN. WHITE in his address as Speaker of the Senate drew the attention of that body to the absolute necessity of setting aside certain days when public business will be taken up and deliberated upon. But there can be no remedy but a revision of the State Constitution; and it is extremely to be regretted that the proposition looking to this step, which was before the Legislature from the first days of the session which has just closed, enlisted so little interest.

THE jobbers interested in that useless and corrupting publication known as the *Legislative Record* are arranging the machinery for its resuscitation next year. Previous to the adjournment the keynote was sounded, and it has been taken up by the "organ" here, and will be re-echoed by the organs of the corrupt Harrisburg rings throughout the State. If GEN. WHITE-SIDE'S *Record* been authorized for the session just closed, its publisher would have had the fattest job ever known in the printing line at Harrisburg, and knowing this the old *Record* clique are determined to get their hands into the Treasury next year if possible. Those in favor of the job prate about finding therein the votes of members on all bills, so that their constituents would be able to know and mark their doings. This is simply absurd, for the *Record* of past years did not contain the votes of members on important bills, nor are the yeas and nays called for when corrupt measures are put through.

The proceedings of the Ohio Legislature are published in the Columbus daily papers, to the extent of three columns daily, for which the publishers do not receive pay, the only contribution made by the State being the pay of the reporters. The people of that State are satisfied with that publication, and there is no reason why the people of this State would not be satisfied with a similar one. Let the Legislature save the Commonwealth not less than fifty thousand dollars by refusing to continue the *Record*, and be sure to select men for their representatives in the next Legislature who will continue the retrenchment begun in this direction at least. There is every difference in the world between such a record as will answer every purpose and BERGNER'S job.

SOME weeks ago we referred briefly to the horrible cruelties practised on our railroads in the transportation of cattle. The subject is really one of very great and urgent interest. Though comparatively little has been written, or at least published about it, the attention of great numbers has been turned to it; perhaps few humane persons make a journey on one of our great railroads without coming to the knowledge of facts that suggest the necessity of interference. Many surely read with satisfaction, in our issue of Tuesday, the statement that the matter has been brought to the notice of the Senate of the United States. On the 11th instant Mr. SUMNER offered a resolution directing the Committee on Agriculture to inquire what legislation is necessary for the regulation of the transportation of cattle and other animals on railroads of the United States, so as to secure for animals sufficient space and ventilation, and the resolution was adopted, unanimously, we believe. Even those who least admire the distinguished Senator who offered this resolution, would hardly question his devotion to the cause of philanthropy. Whatever inconsistencies may have marked his career, he has throughout been a consistent enemy and denouncer of human oppression. As the mover of this resolution he cannot be said to have appeared in a new character. No paltry quibble upon the etymological meaning of a word will exclude the "dumb creatures of GOD" from the domain of the philanthropist, who labors to secure for all men the rights, privileges and enjoyments essential to the fulfilment of the end of their existence. Cruelty to, or even indifference to the suffering of brutes, reacts upon the perpetrators and tends to degrade them, and familiarity with, or the frequent sight of pain needlessly inflicted upon animals, the companions and assistants of man, inevitably debases the spectator who passively tolerates the wrong. We trust that the people will take such further action as may be necessary to compel legislation on the subject of cattle transportation.

IN the *Pittsburgher Volksblatt* of yesterday appeared the following admonition:

> "Those leaders of the Republican party commit a great folly who believe that, since they have got the term vote, they no longer need the Germans, but have respect to them no longer impose any restraint upon their nativism and their hypocrisy. Very provoking examples of this sort have lately occurred in Indiana. These gentlemen are manifestly our calculators, and do not reflect that the Germans hold in their hands the decision between the two political parties. From the moment an important portion of the German voters joined the Republican party, the latter gained the ascendency; for the German votes would for example in Pennsylvania, Ohio or Indiana overbalance the natural Democratic majority of the parties. Were the Republican party so foolish as to drive the Germans by hypocrisy and nativism into the other camp, it could be completely buried with its negro votes.
>
> "Were this admonition seriously meant, or rather if the acts of the Republican party had been such as to justly provoke such threats, it would be placed in a very embarrassing position—a position like that of the gallant in the play between two rivals for his affections:

> How happy could I be with either,
> Were the other dear charmer away!

But really we are unable to believe that our Pittsburgh contemporary fairly represents the great German section of the Republican party. We are confident that they united with it as the party of progress and equal rights for all—and that they will not readily leave its ranks in disgust with any small side issues that may be started by injudicious or enthusiastic members. Nativism is dead and will certainly never be revived, unless as a merely local question, it may be, in certain sections. And as for the policy, the support of which incurs the charge of "hypocrisy," we believe *it* will be combated most successfully by those who recognize something better than mere hypocrisy, or whatever more may be comprehended in "muckerie," as the imploring motive of its leaning advocates.

> In this connection, let it be stated that Rome is putting forth strenuous efforts to secure a religious ascendency over this very race. The singular spectacle is presented of Protestant England and Protestant America compelling her votaries to a practical recognition of religious equality, by making them worship in the same language, and in the same form, in the same altar. With no true sympathy for them, she manages to present an outward respect which is an attractive power in their peculiar position as it is dangerous. With her usual worldly sagacity she is training the Irish priesthood of colored priests, who will form an effective agency for future conquest and hold.

In the above extract from a religious contemporary injustice is done to the Roman Catholic Church. None of our readers will charge us with the slightest Romanizing tendency, or partiality for Popery in any one of its forms or disguises. But even at the risk of laying ourselves open to so damaging an imputation, we must deny the correctness of the notion that there is anything singular in the spectacle to which this writer refers. He seems to confound things that essentially differ. And no fact in history is better attested, or more evident than that the distinctions of caste have always been "peculiarly odious to the Church of Rome," for the reason assigned by a celebrated Protestant historian that "they are incompatible with other distinctions which are essential to her system." It is only just to say that on the relations of different races that church has always maintained in theory at least the doctrine of the New Testament, and asserted a divine sanction for an aristocracy of her own quite independent of race.

IT is announced that the English Government is preparing to send three hundred regular troops and a battery of steel guns under the command of Col. WILLESLEY, against the insurgents in Winnepeg. A contemporary thinks that the insurgents will "either capitulate or be soundly thrashed." Such an opinion is hasty, to say the least. It is not in accordance with what is nearly, or quite, the uniform history of such transactions. The Winnepeg people we know but little of, excepting that they are disposed to set up for themselves, but in regard to them we may safely suppose that three hundred British regulars, even if they do have a battery of guns, which are said to be the case, though something extraordinary was to come of that fact—will find somebody to fight. The character of that people, the nature of the country—provided the troops ever reach there—are favorable for a kind of warfare unknown to recognized tactics. The force may "conquer a peace," but it will be a peace bounded by the range of their guns. The statement that these guns are made of steel may be intended to convey some idea how extensive the peace will be, as they are presumed to have a range greater than though they were made of iron simply.

CERTAIN newspapers and correspondents writing from Washington seem to think that the passage in question of the tariff bill is all lost. They refer to the probability that it will take two weeks to go through with it as something greatly to be deplored. Congress has spent five months doing what nobody can precisely say. Weeks have been absolutely thrown away in a manner that invites the disgust of the nation. Apparently to keep on in this way would in the estimation of those who chafe under the fact that the House is for once bestowing real hard work on a great public measure and evince a determination to go through with it to the end, would be all right. Doubtless a good many private axes remain unground while a measure of the importance of the tariff bill is being considered. The complaint shows in what interest much of the time of Congress is spent, and how difficult it is to have the proper business of the country attended to. It may not suit private and immaterial interests, but the fact that the House keeps at the tariff bill does please the country. If there could be a certainty that anything like equal attention will be bestowed on other important measures, Congress would stand far better than it does with the country.

THE death of LOPEZ, consequently the ending of the Paraguayan war, seems to be well authenticated, although so much that has subsequently proved erroneous has been reported concerning this famous man, that perhaps it will be safe to wait further advices. True or false, LOPEZ will fill a place in history as one of the most extraordinary characters of his time. Although the allies may have conquered a peace finally, it has been at an immense cost. So long as LOPEZ lived he was able to defy them, and for a long time it has been apparent that on anything like equal footing, he was more than a match for his enemies. He was evidently no ordinary man, but possessed many of the qualities of real greatness. The truth of the reports of barbarities committed by him is yet to be confirmed, while his superiority as a leader and head is readily made out in the light of recent history.

WE observe that the opponents of the Tariff bill now under discussion, virtually concede that when it shall have been gone through will pass the House of Representatives. One infuriated correspondent says "that unless public sentiment makes itself immediately and strongly felt, there will be no such thing as a relief from taxation or a reform in the tariff. The House seems to be almost completely in the possession of special interests, and they 'log-roll' each other's schemes through with ease and facility." In other words, the prospect of the foreign manufacturers obtaining "relief" is decidedly dubious. This is good news, and we hope it will continue to the end.

IN the new deal incident to the revised New York City charter, the great plum of all is that carried off by William M. Tweed—ten years again chamberlain, to-day a Senator, and worth five millions of dollars. Tweed is the executive officer of the Ring. He holds six offices and now has another called the Department of Public Works. Under his control he directs the management of the streets, the erection of all public offices, and the sole control of the department heretofore known as the Croton Water Department. Years ago he was kicked out of a subordinate place in the street department. To-day he has more patronage than any ten officials together in New York.

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REVENUE INFORMERS AND THEIR FEES.

Letter From Commissioner Delano Favoring a Change.

Commissioner Delano, duly impressed with that odious feature of the Revenue Laws which gives to informers large moieties, or shares of recoveries collected through their agency, amounting variously from ten to fifty per cent, according to the sums collected, has, in response to a resolution of the House of Representatives, in a letter addressed to the Speaker, expressed his decided disapproval of the present mode, and recommended a modification of the law, and giving interesting statistics on the subject. The Commissioner says he cannot give the exact amount of informers' shares paid by order of the Courts in these suits, as they have not been reported to him, but estimating them approximatively on the basis of a proportion of returns in compromise cases the amount so paid would would be $1,238,582 56. During the years 1867, 1868 and 1869 there were collected on account of fines, penalties and forfeitures the aggregate sum of $4,320,201 15, of which the United States received $2,431,044 87, and informers received $1,770,156 28. The Commissioner admits that Government has derived great pecuniary advantage from the law providing shares for informers, but expresses his conviction that in view of its attendant evils it would be expedient and even advisable to repeal the statute, and to abolish the existing system. The question of the legal right of officers to receive informers, shares is now pending before the Attorney General, but, however that may be, he has no doubt that officers should not be allowed to receive such rewards for that fidelity to the public interests which it is their duty to manifest without such incentives. Besides the odium which such a system must be sure to incur, and to avoid the imputation of which has a tendency to discourage a high minded and sensitive officer from thorough discharge of his duty, the system is fraught with a very objectionable class of informers, actuated by merely mercenary motives, who look eagerly about for offenses against the revenue laws, no matter how technical or small the amount involved, for the sole purpose of securing a share of the penalty imposed, and such persons, even when revenue officers, have sometimes exhibited a disposition to sacrifice the interests of the Government to their own pecuniary advantage.

Women Jurors.

The Hon. J. H. Howe, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Wyoming territory, has written a letter to Mrs. Myra Bradwell, editress of the Chicago *Legal News*, in which he relates the history and his observations in regard to the choice of women in that territory as grand and petit jurors. He says that he had no agency in the enactment of the law conferring legal equality upon women, he found it upon the statute book, and while he had never been its advocate, he felt that thousands of good men and women had been, and still were, honestly deceived by designing politicians, and he was therefore resolved that it should not be sneered down, even if he had to employ the whole power of the court to prevent it. With such assurances these women were chosen, and have duly empanelled as jurors. They are educated, cultivated Eastern ladies, who are an honor to their sex, and have, with true womanly devotion, left their homes of comfort in the States to share the fortunes of their husbands and brothers in the Far Westand to aid them in founding a new State beyond the Mississippi. I should draw up and file my results of the experiment, thus: "With all my prejudices against the policy I am under conscientious obligations to say that these women have acquitted themselves with such dignity, decorum, propriety of conduct and intelligence as to win the admiration of every fair minded citizen of Wyoming. They were firm and resolute, but mild and conciliatory in the law and the testimony." The Judge alludes to the efforts of the lawyers engaged in defending criminals to get rid of the women jurors, who were, for them, too much in favor of retaining the life of the unfortunate trembling challenges. He says the presence of the ladies secured the most perfect decorum and propriety of conduct, and the lawyers and others who tried both sexes, found the demeanor towards these ladies and the court; and he adds that after the grand jury had been in session two days, the dance-house keepers, gamblers, and demi-monde were so terrified that they fled the country in dismay to escape the indictment of the women grand jurors."

The time is not distant when the press will speak out as with one voice for revision. The people are already in advance of it.

SPEAKER STINSON, in retiring from the chair of presiding officer of the Senate, carried with him the good feeling and confidence not only of his brother Senators, but the public at large. Senator STINSON'S course has been that of an upright legislator. He has shown that he has the qualities of head and heart which qualify him in a peculiar manner for public life and stations of honor and responsibility. He belongs to the order of men to whom it is ever safe to confide important trusts; and we believe that we are justified in saying that all who have observed him in public and private life have formed this estimate of him.

THE report is denied that Attorney General HOAR has tendered his resignation or has any immediate intention of retiring. It is added that he may conclude to do so within the next few months, and that "in that event it may be stated that a Pennsylvanian will receive the nomination." Who is he?

THE "militant medical Major Mary Walker," as the *N. Y. Globe* calls her, has met her Waterloo in Texas. She entered a smoking car on a Texas railroad where a non-combatant gentleman was greatly enjoying his cigar, when she immediately summoned him to desist, which not being instantly heeded, she appropriated him, forcibly and quickly threw it out of the window. Flushed with this victory she shortly after espied the pipe of a wild Texan ranger whom she immediately assailed, but instead of yielding at discretion, the attacked party engaged in open fight. The *World* thus tersely records the engagement: "For a brief time the battle raged hotly in front, in flank, in rear; fortune now favoring one, anon the other, but at last victory perched decisively on native banner, and the Texan conquered a *pipe* peace with dire discomfiture of the invader, who was forced to retire in disorder to another car."

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THE LATE LEGISLATURE.

Private Legislation Coming to Light—Feed Attorneys.

What has and what has not been done at Harrisburg the past winter by the Pennsylvania Legislature will not be known for some time yet, as the manner in which bills were rushed through in the last moments of that now defunct and decomposed body, prevented even the phonographers from catching the titles of them. The people of Philadelphia are awaking to the fact that a number of bills seriously affecting their interests have been whirled through both Houses with wonderful velocity. For instance the Union Passenger Railway, of which Wm. V. McGrath, of Ridgeway, M. S. Quay, and others are directors, had a bill passed giving them exclusive privileges over up-town streets. The *Bulletin* says: "*It is a positive fact that the whole of this part of the bill was concealed from the members of the House.* Only the first part of the bill was read, and the members allowed it to pass because it was understood to give some unimportant privileges of connection at the southern end of the road. The sections giving the important up-town privileges were never read to the House nor passed by its members, nevertheless a bill in the form in which it has appeared in the public prints is certified to as having actually passed both House and Senate.

Referring to the report that a charter has been granted for a railroad along Wissahickon turnpike, the *Bulletin* calls it an outrage, and says: "Legislation is become a mere farce. No man's property is secure, no rights are too sacred to be invaded, no outrage too base to be perpetrated. Nothing short of turning the Susquehanna through the halls of the Legislature will purify them after the deeds of the past winter."

The Harrisburg *Topic* concludes an article on the Legislature as follows: "Just at this moment it is well to remember the saying that the private legislation of the Legislature just sojourned is calculated for and will do public interests great injury. Corrupt means were employed to secure the passage of these measures. Nine out of ten of all the lawyers in both Houses were feed attornies of those who sought these favors. So that men who were sworn to act impartially in disposing of the business of the State, saived their consciences by receiving a fee to do what honest people cannot see in any other light than as a bribe. Is it possible to find men to act as Senators and Representatives, who can resist such influences? We should like to see the experiment made."

ANOTHER GALLOWS HORROR.

A Long Drawn Death by Strangulation, According to Law.

Reynolds, a hard case, was hanged in New York on Tuesday last. The usual details, including the beastly scenes, we omit, and come to the point which adds another instance to the long catalogue of

GALLOWS HORRORS

According to our enlightened civilization: For a few seconds Reynolds hung motionless, with his right leg outstretched a little in front, body slowly swinging from right to left and back again; then his clasped fingers began to twitch, slowly at first, but violently in a second or two. His body swung once more to the right, and a convulsive movement, followed by a shudder, passed through it. His hands next unclasped, and after grasping a moment at the air on either side, clasped together again. After that the convulsions become more violent. His body would draw up and fall, as the legs would kick forward and backward, still swinging from right to left. After this had continued for a minute, probably, it was noticed that the right leg grew perceptibly blue, and all at once his hands unclasped, and his arms fell heavily to his sides, the right one thumping against the prison wall. Then he extended, with the fingers working nervously. Then his body suddenly assumed the shape of an arc of a circle, with the head and feet thrown back, and the chest and stomach thrown forward. It remained in this position for nearly a minute, the right arm out and the left by the side. Then it fell limp; then gave another convulsive jerk; both arms raised and fingers twitching, and then fell heavily to his sides. Apparently the spirit had lowered to the sides and all was still. Another jerk, a series of tremors running through the frame, then all was still. This scene now three minutes, and still the gurgle of the air passing through the dying man's lungs could be distinctly heard, such a botch was made of the execution. During his most violent convulsions, he could be heard hardly drive from his head the thought, "What if that flimsy piston should fetch?" Fortunately it did not, would be then enacted." Fortunately it held.

LISTENING FOR DEATH.

Dr. Neale, who watch in hand, counted the dying man by the left wrist, felt his pulse. A minute after, or four minutes from the time of hanging, Dr. Shine felt the pulse of the right wrist. Two minutes later the pulse had stopped beating. Dr. Hartigan, the executioner, then announced the dying man's coat. Two minutes later the body was lowered to within a foot of the ground, and Dr. McKeon, with his ear, put to the back to steady it, listened at the chest. The heart still beat. Drs. Hodgman, Vance, Hinrichs, Donald, Dr. Harwood, Robinson, Battles, and Van Dusen each crowded around the body, and went through the performance of listening for death.

The knot had made a large abrasion on the back of the head, and had now become of an almost black color. The hands were as blue as indigo inside, and the fingers were orange peel. His feet were encased in a well-worn pair of unpolished boots over which the pantaloons hung down loosely.

DEAD AT LAST.

When twelve minutes had elapsed a slight throbbing of the heart was noticed, and after thirteen minutes it had ceased to beat forever. The reporters, the deputy sheriffs, &c., now crowded around the swinging corpse, and various comments were interchanged about the scene which had just been witnessed. Drs. Hinrichs, Donald, McDonald, Robinson, Dr. Reynolds's neck had been broken, but Dr. Hodgman and many others were just as positive that death was caused by the fall of death. Dr. Vance pronounced it the most brutal execution that he had ever witnessed.

The Meat Supply.

The returns to the Department of Agriculture for the month of February, referring mostly to stock raising throughout the country, indicate a gratifying increase in the number of beef cattle in some sections, though not in equal proportions nor in all the States. In Maine, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio, the returns indicate a slight falling off from last year. The largest relative increase is found in the States west of the Mississippi river, from which it would appear that the business of stock raising is still advancing westward, having giving place in the central and southwestern States to the culture of wheat, corn, tobacco and other agricultural products. Accordingly the price is now considered too valuable for grazing purposes and, notwithstanding the high price of beef cattle, sheep are being introduced in many parts. Returns of swine indicate a decrease in all the Southern and Western States, with the exception of Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Arkansas and Nebraska. In other States a slight increase is noticed, though not sufficient to indicate a material decrease in the aggregate of last year's production. The returns further show that in price, hogs have fully maintained last year's rates, while the tendency of sheep is to higher figures. The price of wool is lower than last year in most of the States, but the decline is slight as not to affect the interior prices in the Eastern markets. The price of milch cows remains unchanged, from which it may be inferred that the value of dairy products will not materially decline during the coming season. There is every prospect of a continuing low rent high price of meats for another year, if not longer, will doubtless stimulate the efforts now making to secure the manufacture and abundant supply of preserved and refrigerated meat from South America, Africa, New Zealand and Australia, at prices sufficiently low to compensate for any deterioration of quality on the part. This experiment has met with much success in England, where the prejudice against preserved meats is gradually disappearing, and should our enterprising provision dealers undertake the establishment of a trade with these same sources of supply, an abundant and wholesome meat supply, we are convinced they would find it largely and permanently profitable.

The Fenian Imbroglio.

General O'Neil has been prevailed upon to revoke his order directing the men to march on Congress to be held in the West, and it is now arranged that the Congress shall assemble in Troy, N. Y., on the 10th of April. A meeting which will reduce the State debt to $15,000,000 or $20,000,000, and also relieve it from all floating obligations. When this is done, the State Legislature will pass a law similar to those of South Carolina, and pay the interest on her bonds in coin.

THE Canadian fisheries are likely to prove a source of disquietude between our neighbors and ourselves. It appears that some difference of opinion exists as to how far our fishing smacks may encroach upon the shores, in their hot pursuit of the finny tribe, the marine requirements and headlands now being clearly defined. Our Canadian neighbors are not well pleased with the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty, and are manifestly disposed to show that they are not the recipients of favors in turn. Hence they intend to prohibit our fishermen from exerc

Weekly Commercial.

HARRISBURG.

Veto of the Development Bill.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., April 7, 1870.

SENATE.

The Railroad Bill Vetoed.

A message was received from the Governor vetoing the new railroad bill. The reading of the veto created considerable sensation. Mr. Wallace moved its consideration be postponed. Agreed to.

Proposed Extension of the Session.

Mr. Randall offered a resolution that the joint resolution providing for final adjournment to-day be rescinded, and that both Houses adjourn on Thursday, 14th inst. Disagreed to:

YEAS.

Beck,	Linderman,	Olmsted,
Connell,	Lowry,	Randall,
Findlay,	Mumma,	Wallace,
Hemsley,	Nagle,	Watt.

NAYS.

Allen,	Davis,	Robison,
Billingfelt,	Graham,	Eutan,
Brooke,	Howard,	Turner,
Brodhead,	Kerr,	Warfel,
Brown,	McIntire,	White,
Buckalew,	Monsma,	Worthington, Speaker.

Mr. Lowry then moved that the session be continued until Saturday. It was impossible to get through with the business of legislation to-day, even not taking into consideration the veto just read. Disagreed to.

YEAS.

Beck,	Lowry,	Randall,
Connell,	McClure,	Robison,
Findlay,	Miller,	Wallace,
Hemsley,	Nagle,	Watt.
Linderman,	Olmsted,	

NAYS.

Allen,	Buckalew,	Eutan,
Billingfelt,	Graham,	Turner,
Brooke,	Howard,	Warfel,
Brodhead,	Kerr,	White,
Brown,	Monsma,	Worthington, Speaker.

Election of Speaker.

Mr. Graham then moved the Senate proceed to the election of Speaker. The candidates nominated were White, Republican, and Wallace, Democrat. Mr. White was elected by the Republican vote.

Mr. Stinson, the retiring Speaker, then said a few complimentary words in farewell. Mr. White followed in a lengthy speech, urging measures of reform in special legislation and the propriety of holding a constitutional convention, and the publication of some accurate legislative record.

The Treasury Investigation.

Mr. Billingfelt read the report of the Senate Finance Committee on the Treasury investigation was in his hands, but the Committee should consult before handing it in. He moved the Committee be allowed to put the report in the hands of the Clerk some time this afternoon.

Mr. Buckalew moved to amend by providing that the Clerk should be empowered to print a sufficient number of copies of the report. Agreed to, and motion adopted.

Adjourned Sine Die.

At twelve o'clock the Speaker adjourned the Senate *sine die*. No presents were made in the Senate.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Amendment Celebration.

On motion of Mr. Smith, the use of the hall was granted to the colored citizens of Harrisburg to celebrate the Fifteenth Amendment. It unanimously agreed to, several of the Democrats urging its passage.

Thanks.

Mr. Reinoehl introduced burlesque resolutions of thanks to George Bergner. The usual resolutions of thanks were passed.

Usual Gift to Employees.

Presentments were made as follows: Mr. Davis, on behalf of all the members to the Speaker, a gold watch and chain; Mr. Schnader, on behalf of chief clerk Selfridge to the Speaker, a gold band gavel; Mr. Miles, on behalf of the transcribing clerks, to chief clerk Selfridge a silver set. Mr. Craig, on behalf of the officers of the House, to Mr. Davis, a gold headed cane. Mr. Davis, on behalf of the pages to chief clerk Selfridge, a gold pencil and pen.

Farewell.

Mr. Strang made a feeling farewell speech, regretting the veto of the new Railroad bill.

Adjourned *sine die*.

The Next Speakership.

Among those most prominently named in connection with the next Speakership of the House are Messrs. J. D. McJunkin, of Venango; Reinoehl and Watt, the first named gentleman, having apparently the best feeling in his favor, the west in remarkable for the strong desire of securing the next presiding officer.

Approved.

The Governor has approved the appropriation bill as amended.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 12, 1870.

The Anti-Mormon Legislation.

The anti-Mormon bill passed by the House some time ago was favorably reported to-day by the Senate Territorial Committee. They retain all to which the House on Mr. Cullom's motion agreed, and insert a half dozen new sections. The officers of the Mormon Church are not only prohibited from solemnizing marriages, but it is made a misdemeanor for them to do so punishable with fine and imprisonment. Marriages in violation of the terms of the bill are declared incestuous and void, and all persons aiding or consenting to them are to be punished for the offense. Spiritual marriages, so-called, consecration, and all other devices whereby men get the services of women, are prohibited, and so-called spiritual wives may sue and recover payment for their labor. The Mormon remonstrance adopted in Salt Lake City about a fortnight ago, applicable to this bill, and all other anti-Mormon legislation, was to-day presented.

Cadetship Appointments.

There is a glimmer of light ahead in the fact that General Sheridan is not satisfied with the way in which naval and military cadets are appointed. He originated the late investigation in the House, and has now brought in a bill providing that appointments to West Point and Annapolis, other than those given by law to the Presidents, shall be made from candidates who have submitted to a competitive examination and have passed the same. The bill further provides that the Secretaries of War and the Navy shall not make appointments on the recommendations of members of Congress, except from a list of candidates who have received favorable report from an examining board to be convened, and the matter goes over to Friday. It looks as if Gorham would not be turned out, though he will probably be censured.

Acquitted.

Henry Floyd, connected with the death of a man here last summer, has been tried three times for murder. On the first trial he was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to two years imprisonment. New evidence in his favor came to light, and in the second trial the jury were unable to agree. The third trial was concluded to-day by the acquittal of the man.

New Usury Law.

The new usury law of this district goes to the President for his signature to-morrow. The legal rate of interest is still retained at six per cent., but as high as ten per cent. may be paid on agreement. A higher rate than that, direct or indirect, forfeits the whole interest, which may be recovered by suit any time within one year after payment.

The Death of Lopez.

Telegrams have been received by some members of the diplomatic body announcing that the Paraguayan war is ended, and that Lopez is no more, surely and certainly dead. They come from trustworthy sources in England and Spain, but there is manifest disposition to wait and see if he does not come to life again.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE

Death of Lopez.

LONDON, April 13.—The following highly important intelligence has been received from Rio Janeiro *via* Lisbon: President Lopez, of Paraguay, is dead. He was killed by a Brazilian lancer. The mother, sister and children of Lopez, together with Madame Lynch, have been captured. The Commander-in-chief, the Brazilian troops, who put this finishing stroke to the war, has received from the Emperor the title of Viscount Peiaras.

LISBON, April 14.—Full particulars of the defeat of Lopez have confirmed here. He was not captured like mother, sister and children of Lopez, and also his mistress, Mrs. Lynch. Lopez refused to surrender and was shot. Gen. Caballero was also shot.

Adjournment of the Corps Legislatif.

PARIS, April 13.—In the Corps Legislatif today, Ollivier moved that the Chamber adjourn until the vote on plebiscitum had been taken. He said that the Government desired that the Deputies should have an opportunity of going before the people and instructing them in reasons for the measure for which they were to vote.

Jules Favre vehement'y opposed an adjournment. It was inconsistent with the duty the members owed to legislation and publicity for them here to remain at their posts in an emergency like the present. He said they had everything to fear from the Government. The question was then taken, and the motion to adjourn adopted by 154 to 88.

M. Ferry asked the government what progress had been made in the discovery of the conspiracy against the Emperor and State. Ollivier replied that the investigation would soon be completed. In answer to a question what steps were taken in the case of Prince Salmer, who was reported like Count de Guerouniere will enter the Cabinet.

Peace in the Republic.

BRUSSELS, April 13.—De Beriot, the celebrated Belgian violinist, is dead.

New Austrian Cabinet.

VIENNA, April 13.—The Emperor of Austria has accepted the resignation of Dr. Giskra, Minister of the Interior and of Poilee, Herr Bristel, Minister of Finance, and Herr Chertel, Minister of Commerce, and has appointed them Privy Councillors. The new Cabinet has been constituted as follows: Count Patocki, Prime Minister; Herr Taafe, Minister of the Interior; Herr Tschabuschnig, Minister of Justice; Herr Dieser, Minister of Finance; Herr Prells Cognade, Minister of Commerce.

Trial of Nonjenever.

MADRID, April 13.—The trial of Don Duke Montpensier for the murder of Prince Henry of Bourbon, was concluded last evening. The Duke's prompt confession of the fact, and his expression of regret therefor, were accepted as extenuating circumstances. The Duke was sentenced to one month's exile from Madrid, and to pay a fine of six thousand dollars in addition to the family of Prince Henry.

The Vote on Infallibility.

ROME, April 13.—The Ecumenical Council has voted almost unanimously in favor of the entire text of the scheme of the dogma of Papal infallibility.

Hungary Opposed to Infallibility.

LONDON, April 13.—A letter from Pesth asserts that the Hungarian prelates in the Ecumenical Council, will vote against the dogma of Papal infallibility will be excluded from the upper chamber of the Diet.

The Yacht Challenge.

LONDON, April 13.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* congratulates Ashbury on the acceptance of the challenge by the fleet of American schooners, instead of Commodore Ashbury.

Carlists Escaping French Vigilance.

PARIS, April 13.—A dispatch from Bayonne states that several more noted Carlist leaders have just passed over into Spain.

The authorities are again notified that the threatened strike to-morrow (14th) on various manufactories is in this city.

Napoleon's Proclamation.

It is reported the Emperor's proclamation relative to the plebiscitum will be published day after to-morrow.

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE

Chief Justice Chase's Views on the Fifteenth Amendment.

The following letter was received by a Committee of colored citizens of Cincinnati.

WASHINGTON, March 30, 1870.

Accept thanks for the invitation tendered me on behalf of the colored citizens of Cincinnati, to attend the celebration. My duties here will not permit me to be present except by good will and wishes. But one quarter of a century has passed since some of you probably heard me declare (May, 1845) that all legal distinctions between individuals of the same community on any such circumstances as color, creed, or birth place, were false to the genius of our institutions, and incompatible with the true theory of American liberty; that true democracy makes no inquiry about the color of the skin or the place of nativity, or any other similar circumstance of condition and that the exclusion of the colored people, as a body, from the elective franchise is incompatible with true democratic principle. I congratulate you that these principles have been at length made part of the supreme law of the land. Many no doubt would have been glad as I should have been if the great work consummated by the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment could have been inaugurated by the States through an amendment of the State constitutions and through appropriate State legislation, but the difficulties and obstacles prejudicial to every interest inseparable from delay, rendered it necessary to necessitate the course actually adopted, nor does the amendment impair the real rights of any State. It leaves the whole regulation of suffrage to the whole people of each State, subject only to the fundamental law that the right of no citizen to vote shall be denied or abridged on account of color, race or previous condition of servitude. It is to be hoped that each State will so conform its constitution and laws to this fundamental law that no occasion may be given to legislation by Congress. But the best and surest guard of the wisdom as well as justice of the amendment must be found in the contented mind and love of citizens whom you represent. On the occasion to which I have referred, I venture to say that the best way to insure the peaceful dwelling together of the different races is the cordial recognition of equal rights, not the mutual infliction of injuries, and I cannot give you better counsel than I offered them. Go forward, having perfect faith in your own manhood and God's providence, adding to your intelligence, and your self-knowledge; to your knowledge patience, to patience temperance, to temperance brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness universal love. Why not signalize your rejoicing in the rights secured under the Fifteenth Amendment by urging upon Congress the prompt removal of the political disabilities imposed upon our fellow-citizens by the fourteenth amendment, so that through universal suffrage and universal amnesty, peace and love and prosperity may be established throughout our country? Every good man must rejoice in the progress which the colored citizens of the United States have made in education, in religious culture, and in the general improvement of their condition. All good men must earnestly desire their continued advancement in the same glorious direction. All public and all private interests will be promoted by it, and it will insure at no distant day a cordial recognition of their rights, even from those of their fellow citizens who have most earnestly opposed them. No man can now be found who would restore slavery. A few years hence, if the colored men are wise, it will be impossible to find a man who will avow himself in favor of denying or abridging their right to vote.

S. P. CHASE.

LAID TO REST.

LAST SAD HONORS TO THE HERO.

Funeral Obsequies of Gen. Thomas at Troy, N. Y.

TROY, N. Y., April 8.—The obsequies of Gen. Thomas took place to-day. The weather was fine, but the city wore a sombre aspect. Public and private buildings were draped in mourning; the streets were filled with people all the morning martial men marched to and fro to the beating of muffled drums, taking their places in the line of the funeral cortege.

The President, Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of War, Attorney General, Postmaster General, General Sherman, the Congressional delegation, representatives of the army, Governor and Legislature of the State, citizens and dignitaries of all ranks in life were present to testify the nation's sense of its irreparable loss.

St. Paul's Church, where the exercises took place, was draped with American flags bordered with crape, and emblems of grief met the eye in every part of the edifice. Bishop Doane read the service, and Prof. Gay presided at the organ. The musical portion of the services consisted of the hymn "Brief is Life," and the solo, "I Know that my Redeemer Liveth."

The procession then formed in the following order, and marched to solemn music to the cemetery: Troops of the National Guard S. N. Y., Independent, military organizations, escort composed of two companies of enlisted troops, four of the United States artillery, and two of general service infantry; officiating clergy; the body; pallbearers; Major General Hancock, Sheridan, Schofield, Hooker, Granger, Newton, Hazen, and Brig. Gen. Meagher, the President of the United States, Secretary of War, General of the army; bands of music; committee of the Senate of the United States; committee of the House of Representatives of the United States; the Governor of the State of New York and staff; Legislature of the State of New York; Judiciary of New York; committee representing the State of Indiana; the clergy; Secretary of the Army of the Cumberland; officers of the army, navy and marine corps; volunteers of the war; corporate authorities of the city of Albany; corporate authorities of Schenectady; corporate authorities of Troy; Posts of G. A. R.; civic associations.

When the cemetery was reached the Episcopal commitment service was read by Bishop Doane, when the procession returned to the church and was dismissed.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

It is said the President has no intention at present of making a general amnesty proclamation. He entertained the idea some time ago, but is so plied with stories of outrages at the South, said to be committed by ex-Confederates, that he has concluded it is too soon for general amnesty.

The Senate Naval Committee has received from Secretary Robeson a communication strongly recommending that a bill be reported, giving twelve months' pay to the families or heirs of the officers and crew of the Oneida, who were drowned in the collision with the Iron Duke, sent with the Bombay. The Committee favor such an appropriation, and will prepare a bill at their next meeting.

A large meeting was held at Oshkosh, Wis., on Tuesday night, to discuss the protective tariff and its effects on Western manufacturers. Judge Washburne was chosen Chairman and F. B. Norton Secretary. Resolutions were adopted in opposition to the recommendation of Commissioner Wells, and in favor of the building up of home manufactures and the firmaintenance of the present tariff system. Addresses were made by H. B. Jackson, F. B. Norton and Judge Washburne. A committee consisting of Johnathan Hicks, Jr., Wells and A. B. Knapp, was appointed to draw up the form of an organization for a Tariff League.

The steamer America, which arrived at San Francisco yesterday, brought 1,180 Chinese passengers. The steamer brought no important news from China or Japan.

Two white men were attacked by twenty Indians Tuesday night. The Indians were repulsed.

The Attorney General of California has rendered an opinion that it is the duty of county clerks to refuse to register negroes.

George Winters, a representative of the Polynesian Society, is *en route* to Washington to solicit a protectorate of the United States for the Feejee Islands.

Several convicts were seriously injured by the premature explosion of a blast in the quarry on Seventh avenue, yesterday.

The Canadian authorities think the Fenians will postpone the proposed raid, on account of the precautions taken by the Dominion Government.

Gen. O'Neill is reported at St. Albans, Vt.

The British Government is to bear all the expense of the Red River expedition. The troops are all to be raised in the Dominion, to serve two years, and on being disbanded etc. volunteer will be entitled to a grant of land. It is to start on the 10th of May.

Eleven Indians were killed at South Pass Tuesday, by citizens.

The Mississippi river is eight miles wide opposite Quincy, Illinois. West Quincy is entirely submerged, and many people have abandoned their homes. The water is over the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad for five miles, and should the river rise a foot higher the track between Quincy and Palmyra, Missouri, will be submerged. Passengers are transferred by steamer.

M. Ferry asked the government what progress had been made in the discovery of the conspiracy against the Emperor and State. Ollivier replied that the investigation would soon be completed. In answer to a question what steps were taken in the case of Prince Salmer, who was reported like Count de Guerouniere will enter the Cabinet.

In a drunken brawl in Nashville, Tuesday night, William Stewart, white, was killed by Alexander, colored.

John Selmer committed suicide in Nashville on Tuesday.

Governor Hayes addressed the colored people of Columbus yesterday, on the occasion of the celebration of the Fifteenth Amendment.

A Cincinnati bank was yesterday victimized to the amount of $2,000 by a "raised" check.

The leading Fenians are laughing at the scare in Canada over a raid.

The Junction House, near Vincennes, Ind., was burned yesterday.

Zeno Appell was murdered by his brother Gaetano, in North Bend, Conn., yesterday. The murderer was arrested.

The will of George Peabody was admitted to probate in Essex county, Mass., Tuesday. It shows that personal bonds and property except about $150,000 in private bequests to relatives.

Cyrus W. Field's new project for a cable to Asia, contemplates the laying of 8,500 miles of cable.

The law against the sale of liquors and ale is to be rigidly enforced in Bangor, Me.

The annual meeting of the General Railway Freight Agents' Association was held in Cleveland yesterday. About thirty were present, representing most of the principal lines in the country. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, C. W. Smith, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railroad; Vice President, E. R. Wadsworth, Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad; Secretary, H. W. Hibbard, Terre Haute and Indianapolis, and St. Louis, Vandalia and Terre Haute. Executive Committee—Thomas Hogsett, Lake Shore; Lucian Hills, Columbus, Chicago and Indiana Central; L. Devenny, Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton; M. H. Smith, Louisville and Nashville; C. C. Buxton, Cleveland, Sandusky and Cincinnati. The following rates on live stock per 100 pounds, were fixed: To Buffalo from Chicago, 40 cents; from Indianapolis, 37½ cents; from Louisville, 35 cents; from Louisville, 40 cents; to Pittsburgh from Chicago, 40 cents; from Indianapolis, 35 cents; from C ncinnati, 30 cents; from Louisville, 37½ cents.

The body of a man was taken from the river Tuesday at Aere's Point below St. Louis, upon which was a letter dated St. Louis April 10, addressed to "Him who finds my body," and from which it is evident the man committed suicide. The letter was signed F. F. Rashleigh, and states that an unfaithful wife and forcing of a false claim by the treasurer of the Academy of Music of Cleveland led him to suicide. It also states the writer was connected with the editorial staff of the Cleveland *Herald* and *Plaindealer*. It also contains a request that his wife, Laura Rashleigh, Carbondale, Pa., should be notified of his death.

THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT.

Final Arrangements for its Celebration —Mass Meeting to be Held in Lafayette Hall—Resolutions of Thanks—George Ware Makes a Statement in Regard to the Interview Published in the Sunday Leader—He Proclaims His Adherence to the Principles of the Republican Party.

A large meeting of committees from the two cities, appointed to make arrangements for the coming celebration of the Fifteenth Amendment, by the colored population, was held last Wednesday in the hall of the Public School House on Miller street.

Alfred Hawkins occupied the chair, and Prof. S. A. Neale acted as Secretary.

It was, on motion of Mr. Pulprus, resolved that the procession halt in its progress through Allegheny City, and hold a grand ratification meeting in the Diamond.

Messrs. Pulprus, Brown and Jackson were appointed a committee to procure permission from the Allegheny city authorities to erect speakers' stands in the Diamond.

Resolutions of thanks to the government authorities for furnishing the guns to be fired a salute in honor of the Amendment, on the 20th instant, were adopted.

There appeared to be a great deal of excitement in regard to the interview with George Ware published in the Sunday Leader, but reviewed the interview, and said some of his remarks were evidently misunderstood, and therefore misrepresented. He proclaimed his adherence to the principles of the Republican party, but argued that the Democratic party should have a thorough knowledge of all parties, and be able to vote intelligently. At the close of his speech he was heartily applauded.

PITTSBURGH COAL TRADE.

Imports and Exports of Coal by River for March, 1870.

The following table shows the number of bushels of coal received through the various Pools on the Monongahela Navigation Company, for March, 1870, and corresponding month of 1869:

	March, 1870. Bushels.	March, 1869. Bushels.
Pool No. 1	1,221,800	1,681,000
Pool No. 2	2,230,500	4,190,100
Pool No. 3	1,576,300	1,416,300
Pool No. 4	4,080,600	798,800
Total	9,118,200	7,497,200

Increase of March, 1870, over March, 1869, 1,621,000 bushels.

EXPORTS BY RIVER.

	March, 1870. Bushels.	March, 1869. Bushels.
To Cincinnati	2,616,000	3,348,000
To Louisville	2,933,000	3,848,000
To Nashville	110,000	
To Madison	88,000	
To Cairo	115,000	433,000
To New Orleans		115,000
To Baton Rouge		100,000
To Dubuque		
Total	7,854,000	6,629,000

Increase of exports for the month of March, 1870, over March, 1869 1,266,000 bushels.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, April 13, 1870.

Local money is easier, rates are in a very easy condition. Money is plenty, and lenders are anxious to get something that "will pay"—that is, from 6 to 10 per cent. a year. Good paper is scarce, and prime acceptances, which usually pay the banks better, are also scarce. There are large amounts of idle money that would be put out on a long stretch if properly secured at about 9 per cent. If investors would take 7 or 8 per cent, there would be more borrowers on good collaterals. In local stocks little is doing, and prices are hard to maintain. In the event of the passage of the Funding bill, and the banks required to take the low interest bonds in the place of the 5-20s, it is thought that bank stocks will materially decline, and hence it is difficult to make transactions at the current prices. There is still some inquiry for Allegheny Valley 7-30s, and accordingly sales are made at from 89@89½. Columbia Oil Company stock is very dull, and offers to sell at 16 are on the market, without finding buyers. Other oil stocks that were marketable a few months ago have materially declined, and hard to sell at any price. Pennsylvania Railroad stock has advanced to 55¾. The first instalment of a half million of the Pittsburgh Water Loan 7 per cent. bonds has all been taken, and inquiries for more. These bonds come in good place with parties who have sold their Government bonds, which accounts for the rapid absorption of this local loan.

—Although the Government purchased a million of bonds to-day, prices were but a fraction higher than yesterday. It is remarked, that the sales were made by parties who were dealers favors a steady advance in quotations, and there is a disposition to hold, in anticipation of the usual demand for reinvestment of the May interest, about $25,000,000 of interest becomes due on May 1st, and usually a considerable proportion of these payments are in foreign bondholders is used in the purchase of more bonds. As no bonds have been sent to the Treasury Department, it is deemed likely that a supply will have to be exported to meet this wash.

Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co., report the following quotations of Government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cooke & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.	Noon.	Closing.
U. S. Bonds '81	114	114¼	114
U. S. Bonds '52	111½	111¾	111¾
U. S. Bonds '64	109½	109¾	109¾
U. S. Bonds '65	110½	110¾	110¾
U. S. Bonds, new, '65	109½	109¾	109¾
U. S. Bonds '67	109½	109¾	109¾
U. S. Bonds '68	109½	109¾	109¾
10-40s	108½	108¾	108¾
Gold	112¾	112¾	112¾

James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

	April 12.	April 13.	Adv.	Dec.
Gold	112¾	112¾		¼
U. S. Bonds, 1881	114	114		
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '62	111¾	111¾	¼	
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '64	109½	109¾	¼	
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '65, ———	110½	110¾	¼	
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '65, new	109½	109¾	¼	
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s '67	109½	109¾	¼	
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '68	109½	109¾	¼	
10-40s	108½	108¾	¼	
U. S. Currency 6s	111½	111¾	¼	

—If there be any reality to the Wall street reports of the formation of a new "gold clique," says the *Tribune*, it would be well for the parties concerned to recall the history of the making and breaking of the great ring of gold speculators last September. It was necessary to buy all the bonds which would be well to be very cautious, and it is doubtful whether even the greatest caution would be sufficient to save them from loss. The sudden result of the mere announcement that the Treasury would sell a small portion of its surplus smashed the speculative ring to pieces. It is thought that would again take a similar course, especially if the premium were advanced so as to give the Government more money for the same lot of the coin it is able to put on the market. In view of the present currency requirements, properly reminds speculators not to lose sight of the fact that the amount of surplus gold in the Treasury is very large, and that if forty or fifty millions of this surplus can be conveniently utilized by being loaned at 6 per cent., thereby saving three millions per annum of gold interest to the Government, the Administration at Washington, sooner than have gold advance again to high figures, to the upsetting of trade and to the damage of our imperiled public credit at home and abroad, will be very apt to order the Treasury Department to do what was a period in which a gold clique had a poorer chance for its operations than now, and there could not be an election in which a string would be surrounded with greater dangers. Terre Haute Journal: A laundry high under present circumstances.

—The following table, made up from dispatches received at J. W. Kennedy's Stock Rooms, Agents for Boston, Fourth avenue, gives the prices of Railway Stocks, Gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Boards during the day:

April 13, 1870.	10 30	11	11 30	12	12 30	1	1 30	2	3
New York Central	102½	102½	102½	102½	102½	102½	102½	102½	102½
New Jersey Central	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98
Erie	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Harlem	141½								
Reading	97¾	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98
Michigan Central	119½	119½	119½	119½	119½	119½	119½	119½	119½
Michigan Southern	87¾	87¾	87¾	87¾	87¾	87¾	87¾	87¾	87¾
Illinois Central	138	138½	138½	138½	138½	138½	138½	138½	138½
Cleveland and Pittsburgh	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93
Chicago and Northwestern	87½	87½	87½	87½	87½	87½	87½	87½	87½
Do preferred	86½	86½	86½	86½	86½	86½	86½	86½	86½
Rock Island	116	116½	116½	116½	116½	116½	116½	116½	116½
Fort Wayne	97	97	97	97	97	97	97	97	97
St. Paul preferred	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
Toledo and Wabash	47½	47½	47½	47½	47½	47½	47½	47½	47½
Toledo and Wabash pref.	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
Chicago and Alton	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93
Ohio and Mississippi	30½	30½	30½	30½	30½	30½	30½	30½	30½
Western Union Telegraph	82½	82½	82½	82½	82½	82½	82½	82½	82½
Pacific Mail	87½	87½	87½	87½	87½	87½	87½	87½	87½
Adams Express	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½
Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
American M. U. Express	53½	53½	53½	53½	53½	53½	53½	53½	53½
United States Express	53½	53½	53½	53½	53½	53½	53½	53½	53½
Gold	112¾	112¾	112¾	112¾	112¾	112¾	112¾	112¾	112¾

A comparison between yesterday's and today's closing quotations shows the following changes:

	Tues.	Wed.	Adv.	Dec.
N. Y. Central	102½	102½		¼
N. J. Central	98	98		
Erie	25	25		
Harlem	141½	141½		
Reading	98	98		
Mich. Central	119½	119½		
Mich. Southern	87½	87½		
Illinois Central	138	138½	½	
Cleve. and Pitts.	100½	93		½
Chicago and North	75¾	87½	¾	
Do. preferred	86½	86½		
Rock Island	116	116½	½	
St. Paul	74	74		
Do. preferred	74	74		
Tol. and Wabash	46¾	47½	¾	
Do. preferred	74	74		
Fort Wayne	93	95		
Chicago and Alton	93½	93		½
Ohio and Miss.	30½	30½		
Western U. Tel.	82½	82½	¼	
Pacific Mail	87½	87½		
Adams Express	61½	93½	½	
Wells, Fargo & Co.	50	50		
American M. U. Ex	53½	53		½
U. S. Express	53½	53½		

—Yesterday's New York *World* says: The Fenian scare is causing a general anxiety throughout of conversation in political and financial circles. The "bulls" and shiel manipulators of the bonds are advising their friends confidentially that the Fenians are a myth and of but little value, while all the time they are quietly buying them. To-day they changed their tactics, and employed the same weak brokers to sell, in order to hammer the market, that they have been using to buy the bonds during the last few days. It was evident that their own brokers were sharp enough to buy all the bonds that their own weak brokers offered to sell. Whether this was arranged on purpose or by accident is left to conjecture. The whole speculation is a curious one, and *World's* exposure of their scheme has been to shad $5 ₱ bbl; codfish, medium, 5c; large 5c. Herring—lake, $4 00@4 25 ₱ half bbl; Bay island $8 ₱ bbl; Labrador, split, $9 ₱ bbl.

TALLOW—The market was not an active one; we have no change to report; prices nominal. City rendered 9c; country 8@8½c; rough 6@6½c ₱ lb.

EGGS—The market continues to be well supplied, with liberal receipts coming in. We quote nominally first hand at 18@18c; sales from store at 20c ₱ dozen.

POTATOES—The receipts are moderate and the demand is inspiring; sales on track at 45@ 47c ₱ bushel; in store at 50@55c ₱ bush, and $1 25@1 50 ₱ bbl for Peachblows.

FISH—In demand. The mills have no trouble in selling all they can manufacture. Scan $1; shipstuffs $1 10; middlings $1 80 ₱ bush.

RYE FLOUR—Market well supplied. The mills report sales at $5 00 ₱ bbl; $4 75 in sacks.

LIME—In fair demand; sales of Cumberland white at $2 25 and Eastern white $1 75 ₱ bbl.

CEMENT—Sales of Louisville at $1 60 ₱ bbl.

HOMINY—Selling light. We quote nominally at $6 00@6 50 ₱ bbl for flint.

COAL MEAL—Market well stocked; prices, however, have undergone no change; sales of common at 90@95c; fine dried $1 00 ₱ bush.

COOPERAGE—Sales of pails $2 35; Tubs—No. 1 $1 00; No. 2 $9 50 and No. 3 $8 50. Market well supplied.

TURNIPS—Market well supplied. We are retired regular sales at 62½@70c ₱ bushel, and $1 00@1 75 ₱ bush.

BUTTER—The market was firm at a slight decline in prices. Highwines $1 01 in wooden bound barrels and $1 in iron-bound; common rectified $1 05; prime $1 15 ₱ gallon; old rye sells at various prices, according to age and quality.

CHEESE—We can report a good supply on the market, consisting of various qualities. Sales of factory cheese at 12½@13c ₱ lb, and skim lots sold at $3 00@5 00 ₱ bbl, as to quality.

HAY—The market has undergone no material change; buyers are disposed to hold off, believing that prices will soon be lower, as the receipts of timothy are liberal. Timothy sells at $17@18 ₱ ton; inferior sells at various prices.

FLOUR—The breadstuff market appeared firmer to-day, but quotations are nominally the same. Extra Williams sold for Calhoun 14 head, weighing 16,450 lbs, at 4 75.

Extra Williams sold for Martin 15 head, weighing 20,040 lbs, at $5 45.

Jas Hamilton to W. Kelly 2 extra steers, weighing 4,090 lbs at $9 00.

HEDGES & TAYLOR

Sold to J Moses 18 head, weighing 19,340 lbs, at $7 12; Brown 3,98, 21,290, 5,99; J Urban 2, 13,000, 6 25; J Auil, 20, 17,000, 5 55; Lambert 10, 9,370, 6 25; R Young, 18, 21,380, 7 62.

HOLMES, LAFFERTY & GLASS

Sold to Kelly 34 head, weighing 101,600 lbs, at $7 62; Moses 15, 21,750, 7 50; Urban 3, 5,140, 6 62; Kelly 4, 5,600, 5 00; same 64, 80,250, 7 75.

HOLMES, LAFFERTY & GLASS

Sold to Kelly 34 head, weighing 101,600 lbs, at $7 62; Moses 15, 21,750, 7 50; Urban 3, 5,140, 6 62; Kelly 4, 5,600, 5 00; same 64, 80,250, 7 75.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1870.

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DAILY AND WEEKLY.

1870.

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IS IT TOO STRINGENT?

Mr. H. J. WRIGHT, the agent of the New Haven Steamboat Company, writes to the New York *Tribune*, giving his reasons why a Democrat was chosen Governor of Connecticut. He cites the operations of the law of two years ago establishing a "penalty" for transportation of "empty liquor barrels" (on which the revenue stamps were not canceled) of the "forfeiture of the boat, car, or vehicle," and "$300 fine for each package." Mr. WRIGHT goes into detail as follows:

"From through freight train, we received at New Haven, in the night (as through freight always comes with lightning 'dispatch') ten empty liquor barrels, the 'stamps' alleged to be 'uncanceled.' It is hard to tell, sometimes, whether they are uncanceled or not. Though we did not receive the barrels from the shipper, but from a 'connecting road,' (in the night) still, were not only conscientiously, but using 'criminal knowledge, but without any 'knowledge' that we had them (till we arrived here) we were pounced upon, next day, like a pickpocket, our principal boat seized, and the case, finally, settled by the payment of a large 'fine.'"

Therefore, Mr. WRIGHT says, the people voted against the Republicans, as the only way to express their estimate of the law. In publishing Mr. WRIGHT's letter, the *Tribune* upholds the law as "wholesome and necessary."

We think it probable that Mr. H. J. WRIGHT, under the influence of the feeling of injured interest so apparent in his communication, has overstated the importance of the action of "The Internal Revenue Department" in the case of The New Haven Steamboat Company and other cases with respect to its influence on the late Connecticut election. We quite agree, too, with the editor of the *Tribune*, that the interests of the internal revenue must not be subordinated to the mere convenience of any company or individual, and that it is of the utmost importance that the laws relating to the tax on distilled spirits should be faithfully and impartially enforced. But the case of hardship, if not of public wrong, put by Mr. WRIGHT, is not answered by indulging in platitudes and generalities about wholesome and necessary laws. The question is, Are laws of such stringency and severity as respects persons not engaged in liquor traffic wholesome and necessary? Here was a transportation company which issued circulars to all its station agents requiring them not to receive for shipment any empty barrels with the stamps and brands not obliterated or removed. The vigilance of the Company and its agents and employees had been such that not a barrel which was forbidden was carried in a period of twelve months. Afterwards, *in the night time* and from *a connecting road*, ten contraband barrels were received and carried on the Company's boat, without any criminal intent, and, as the circumstances of the case show, without any gross negligence on the part of their servants. For this act of omission, or commission, whichever it may be, the law referred to by Mr. WRIGHT provides *a penalty of $300 for each barrel transported*, and *forfeiture of the steamboat* in which they were transported. It seems that the case was compromised and compounded for a "large fine;" and the Company did not lose their boat.

The question which arises, on the facts stated by Mr. WRIGHT is, are laws wholesome and necessary which work positive wrong to innocent parties? One of the objects of Government, as stated in the Constitution of the United states, is to "establish justice." Is this object promoted by legislation which punishes an innocent citizen with fine and forfeiture of property, for an act of omission or commission of his servant without the knowledge of his employer and against his express commands, and without criminal intent or even neglect on the part of the servant? The general principle of law is that a principal is *not criminally* responsible for the acts of his agent done without his assent, expressed or implied. But this statute reverses that rule, and makes the citizen guilty in respect to the acts and omissions of his agent done against his express command; acts and omissions, too, which the greatest degree of diligence on the part of the agent will scarcely enable him to avoid.

We are as strongly in favor of "wholesome and necessary" laws for the assessment and collection of the tax on distilled spirits, as the editor of the *Tribune* can possibly be but we do not desire to see public justice and the rights of innocent citizens *subordinated* to the interests of the internal revenue. As the law now stands, a simple, honest farmer who knows nothing about the law in question, and never saw a stamp of the kind referred to, may on his return home from market find himself liable to pay a fine of $300, and have his horses and wagon forfeited, for hauling out an empty whisky barrel, to accommodate a neighbor, or supply some need of his own about his business of agriculture. This is *not* American justice; and the wrong is not sanctified by being perpetrated under the forms of law. Let the obnoxious statute be modified.

OUR WORN OUT MACHINERY.

The present Constitution of Pennsylvania was framed in 1838. It was, as it came from the Convention, a great improvement on that of 1790—notwithstanding in one important particular—the introduction of the "white" qualification of electors—it took a step in a backward direction. The instrument has been repeatedly amended, directly, by the people of the State in their sovereign capacity, in order to give increased protection to the rights of property, to secure the redemption of the existing debt of the State, to define and limit the purposes for which a public debt might be created, to enlarge the number of elective officers, to secure the exercises of the right of suffrage to citizens absent in the military service of the United States, and for some other purposes. It has been also indirectly amended by the Legislature in giving the assent of the Commonwealth to proposed amendments of the Constitution of the United States, in response to the demands of an educated and elevated public sentiment.

With some of the States quite in advance of general reformatory movements—some halting and lagging behind—others unwilling and in rebellion against all ideas of reform—the United States have in ten years made the progress of a century. Pennsylvania, moving forward in a course parallel with that of the sweeping advance and not near the line of the main movement as to be able to support it and help to keep it in its track, has, it must be admitted, made a steady and rapid independent progress. In 1838, our population was about 1,400,000; to-day it is not less than 3,600,000. Then we had no common schools worthy of the name; now they are nearly as good as the best. To-day we have more miles of railroad than any other State in the Union. In some of the products of agriculture we are the first. We produce 62 1-2 per cent. of the pig iron of the country. We furnish 80 per cent. in value of all of the coal consumed in the land. In petroleum and its products we are almost without competition. In manufactures no State in the Union can be put in comparison with ours. In solid wealth, if not entitled to the first place, who will challenge our claim to the second? Surely no reason for despondency as respects the future, will be found by any one who will compare the Pennsylvania of 1838, with the Pennsylvania of 1870. But with all our real progress, and with our many present and prospective advantages, ours is probably the worst governed State in the Union, in so far as a people may be said to be governed by the law-making power. Nine-tenths of the acts of Assembly passed at each session of the Legislature are of a private or special nature. Private rights are affected, privileges are granted. Corporations and monopolies created, marriage relations dissolved, charters of cities and boroughs modified, and genecal laws are altered to accommodate the selfish interests of individuals, to include particular cases not within their spirit or meaning. Special road laws are enacted for one county or even township; special license laws for another county or township; special offices are created for particular localities which are unknown to the general laws. Incongruity and repugnancy are fast deforming our general system of laws, if, indeed, we can now be said to have any general system. Individual citizens and communities do not feel safe while the Pennsylvania Legislature continues in session. It is publicly charged in the newspapers and believed by most people that any bill, however meritorious, may be defeated by the use of money —that any bill, however wanting in merit, may be passed through the forms of legislation by the use of money—that offices are bought and sold—that, in short, the very atmosphere of the Capital of the State is pestilential, and honesty cannot live and thrive in it. These allegations may not be true to the extent charged; but it is certain that the public confidence has been entirely withdrawn from our State Legislature. Of the remedy for these deplorable evils we shall hereafter speak.

The judiciary of Pennsylvania is believed to be entirely free from corruption; and in respect to learning, ability and general fitness, our judges, without doubt, compare favorably with those of other States. But the judicial system is imperfect, and wanting in adaptation to the wants of the people. More than forty years ago the Supreme Court consisted of five judges. The number has not been increased, notwithstanding the immense increase in the number and magnitude of the cases which come befors the Court. Litigation is protracted and public justice unduly delayed. The labors of the Supreme Court are greater than the Judges can perform. An addition of two or even four Judges would not sensibly relieve the Court, for in order to secure uniformity of decision the bench ought to be full, at the argument of each case, and at best there would be only a greater division of labor without much advancement of the business of the Court. The real difficulty is that too many causes are thrown on that tribunal for decision; and this difficulty can be met and obviated only by creating an intermediate Appellate Court between the Supreme and lower Courts with powers of final decision within certain prescribed limits as respects the value of property in controversy. The calenders of the Courts of Quarter Sessions are loaded down in many districts with trifling criminal charges which could be as well or better tried before a Recorder or Police Magistrate with a jury. At present the same judge may on the same day preside at the trial of one man who sells a glass of liquor without license, and of another who is charged with murder. The next day he may be found trying an ejectment or hearing a bill in equity. The next deciding a road case, or granting a divorce. The next listening to the reading of affidavits in a contested election case, or appointing a guardian for a minor. Our present judicial system seems to be founded on the assumption of a versatility of human taste, talent and capability, not found elsewhere than in Pennsylvania courts. Query: Is it always found even there?

Our State government too, exhibits many anomalies. The people *elect* the Governor, Auditor General and Surveyor General. The General Assembly *elects* the State Treasurer. The Governor *appoints* the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the Attorney General and Adjutant General. The Senate chooses a Speaker who in certain contingencies becomes Governor. Some officers are Constitutional, that is to say, created by the Constitution itself. Others of equal and even greater importance are the creations of the Legislature, and may be abolished to get rid of an officer who may be obnoxious to a ruling majority in the Legislature, or for some worse reason. The offices of Secretary of the Commonwealth, State Treasurer and Prothonotary of the Supreme Court are Constitutional and may not be abolished. The offices of Auditor General, Surveyor General, Attorney General and District Attorney, may be blown away by Legislative breath. Can a reason be given why some of these officers should be chosen by the people, others appointed by the Governor, or Supreme Court, or elected by the Legislature?

Without pursuing the subject further, we trust that the above will sufficiently indicate the urgent need of reform in our State Government. The fact is we have outgrown the Constitution of 1838; and nothing short of a Constitutional Convention can provide effectual remedies for the evils and imperfections which we have exposed. As at present constituted the General Assembly consists of one hundred and thirty-three members, sixty-seven of whom make a party majority. With the aid of the *caucus system*, a man who can buy or otherwise corruptly control *thirty-four* of this party majority in his interests, can secure a seat in the United States Senate, or bring the State Treasury under his control. Corruptionists publicly boast, that with the help of a rigorous party discipline there will always be *purchaseable* men enough in the Legislature to control it. The remedy is to increase the number of members. In 1790, with a population of 434,373, the maximum number of members of the Lower House was fixed at 100. In 1870, with a population of 3,600,000, the maximum is still 100. Then one member represented 4,340 people; now 36,000. Then, citizens of ability and character sat in the Legislature and corruption was not heard of; now, men of ability and character are unwilling to incur the odium which attaches to a seat in the Legislature. Let the number of members in the House of Representatives be increased to 600, and of Senators to 200 or 300, and there will be an end of corruption. A body so numerous could not be bought or controlled by the wealthiest individual or the most powerful corporation.

Let the powers of the Legislature be limited to the passage of general laws, except in a very few specified and well defined cases, and there will be an effectual remedy applied to the evils of special legislation. Let the judicial power be distributed among separate Courts with different Judges, and with jurisdictions and duties exactly defined. Let that judicial packhorse—the Common Pleas Judge, now groaning under the load of every possible judicial duty, be relieved of a part of his burden, and he will be better able to serve the people, and possibly make for himself some credit and reputation, a thing *now* quite impossible.

If the people can be trusted to make choice of Judges of the Supreme Court and Common Pleas, of an Auditor General and Surveyor General, let them also choose the custodian of the public money, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Attorney General and a Lieutenant Governor also.

These evils and imperfections require radical and effectual remedies. They can be administered only through the medium of a constitutional convention. The machinery of the State government requires reconstruction and adaptation to the present wants of the people. Let us have the convention, and the sooner the better.

IS BISHOP O'CONNOR RIGHT?

Some may think that a few of the secular newspapers in this country give up too much space to the sayings and doings of the great Council. No doubt a good deal of very unprofitable matter has been published on the subject, such as imaginary declarations of conspicuous members, fictitious proceedings and decrees, and frivolous conjectures regarding the intentions of the Roman Court. But the abundance of this sort of matter has been the outcome of an ill judged endeavor to meet an urgent demand created by the interest of the subject. Even in this Protestant country the Council has been recognized from the beginning as a body whose action involves directly practical issues. Even now questions of vital concern to our free institutions are in agitation among us whose origin can be clearly and easily traced back to the very source from which the project of the Council took its start—and the entire discussion of these momentous questions will be directed on one side by the final action of the influential assembly for some time in session at Rome. Hence, doubtless, the zeal with which English enthusiastics represent the proposed action about infallibility as nothing novel, but as a mere definition or declaration of a dogma always held by the faithful. This misrepresentation has been published in the leading Catholic journals and from innumerable Catholic pulpits. This is the purport of the discourse on "Papal Infallibility and the Council" by Dr. O'CONNOR, formerly Bishop of Pittsburgh, delivered in New York a few days ago and quoted in the COMMERCIAL of last Thursday. If this were the correct representation of the affair, of course there would be no occasion for alarm or excitement on the subject anywhere, and least of all among Protestant republicans. Assuming the view to be sound we must suppose the reports of alarm in France and other Catholic countries caused by the threatened decree to be utterly false reports, or else that the people in those countries have quite lost their wits. The latter supposition will not be readily entertained, and the comments of the late foreign journals on the subject of infallibility are wholly inconsistent with the former notion. To these journalists, either Catholics or living among Catholics, this proposed dogma is evidently something more than the thing pretended by Dr. O'CONNER. Referring to the controversy between His Holiness and Count DARU, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, regarding the representation of the Government in the Council, the *Opinion Nationale* says:

"The sentiment that animates the Minister of Foreign Affairs is good. We cannot say as much of the means which he has employed. The words of his sorrow and apprehension that curious mixture of pusillanimity and folly, of fanaticism and impudence which at this moment in agitation at Rome and which threatens to reduce Catholicism into a mere instrument in the Pope, this is readily understood. But that he imagines himself able to arrest, like a child, by remonstrances or even by threats, such a notion proves only one thing which is that the honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs has not hitherto had to treat with the Court of Rome, and has not had occasion to observe it.

"In the first place, how enter into discussion with a court whose chief believes himself infallible? How give advice to a demigod in the mood and on the way to come out God? You threaten to withdraw our troops from Rome. That afraid he has heard for the last twenty years; he knows what to think of it, and that they are no sooner withdrawn than they are sent back the moment he is in danger. The letter of Count Daru will take its place with the letter on the side of the famous letter to Edgar Ney, as historical proofs of the incurable feebleness of the French government, which has protected and still protects with its flag the saturnalia of priests and old maids crazed by flatterers, and who is doing what he can to alienate whatever thoughtful and reasonable men still remain in the Church.

"People do not argue with the gods, it is necessary either to adore or renounce. If the Government of the cevotee pursued at Rome for the last twenty-one years numbering about a score, knew the extent of what was intended. By guaranteeing the Pope whatever he did against the assaults of the French people his bad government, they have turned his head, they have rendered him unmanageable. Twenty years ago it would have been easy to abate the foolish obstinacy which now hurls defiance at the most formidable powers of modern civilization. To-day there is but one thing to do, sever the bonds which attach the church to the State, recall our troops, suppress the budget of public worship (cultes) and abandon the infallibles to the consequences of their apotheosis. With the church, such as it has become, words are useless; acts alone can avail. They wished to save the temporal power and have already destroyed it in the minds of its most devoted defenders. They wished to deliver the sovereign of the Roman States from the responsibility for his actions. The result is that he has come out God."

Another Frenchman writing in Rome, and alluding to the prospective adjournment of the Council, says:

"The prorogation will be received by most of the members with signs of relief for also, this time, will anything else than a work of illumination and pacification. What a convocation! Envy, jealousies, personalities, mean ambitions, basest servility, unheard of infatuation, and above, a despotism which borders on delirium—these are the characteristic features. The one hundred and thirty or forty bishops of the opposition who are busy amid its tumults have before their eyes some one of the sad pictures drawn by the author of the Divine Comedy. As for the infallibility it is always springing up. Despite the insults, the blacks are not willing to hear anything on the subject. The stronger the outcry against them, the more this absurd dogma becomes, the more determined grow Pope Pius and the Jesuits. The Vatican will become a cave of man-worship; they speak of nothing but man-worship there; one meets only the men who worshippers (anthro-polatres) 'Let us deify him, my brethren,' says one of them, 'and then we shall be the most *orderly* constantly repeated by the prelates about the Pontiff."

Evidently, to the good people of the Catholic lands over the water it would be very surprising, and to some of them very comforting, to be assured, as we Americans are constantly assured by high authorities, that the personal infallibility of the Pope is a doctrine as ancient nearly as the church, needing only definition and nothing more. Even in Rome itself the assurance if believed would facilitate proceedings very much.

THE MORMON PROBLEM

If the missionary efforts of the apostles of Mormonism had been confined to the United States, Mormondom could never have become the huge thing it is. No doubt a good many converts to the delusion have from time to time been made in this country, but the sources of its increase lie amidst the ignorance and poverty of the Old World. It is also quite certain that a large portion of the Americans who have joined the Saints have been attracted, or imposed upon by the mere attitude who had already united with them. There are minds in this country as in others, to whom the attitude professing it is a cogent argument for a creed. But, generally, Mormonism presents few attractions to Americans, and even if let alone there is no probability that it would ever grow much by conversions among them. If the Government feels impelled to take measures for the suppression of the system, why not endeavor to influence foreign emigrants from joining them? In this manner, increase from without might be partly if not wholly arrested. Then with respect to internal multiplication, that might safely be left to the agency of restraining influences already in powerful operation. There is certainly one important schism in their polygamous church already, and among those who adhere openly to the peculiar views of the aged chief who controls the larger division, dissatisfaction with the existing state of things is believed to be deep and widely spread. This discontent is in many instances the natural result of intercourse with the Gentiles, who live in great numbers among the Saints. It seems strange that BRIGHAM YOUNG has not been more careful to exclude Gentiles from his theocracy. Either he was influenced by enthusiastic faith in the evidential force of the Mormon system, or he has never expected it long to survive himself. One or other of these views appears necessary to account for his tolerance of dissenters in his community. Ignorant Welsh and Scandinavians who rejoiced in the Mormon Valley on their first arrival as if it were heaven, find their faith weakened by Gentile familiarity.

The dissolving and destructive effects of the closer connection with people on the east and the west of them resulting from the Pacific railroad, can hardly be doubted, and the death of YOUNG and others of the older leaders almost certain to take place in the course of a few years, would seem destined inevitably to complete the disintegration of the community. Perishing in this gradual way, the system will probably vanish without leaving a remnant, or a trace. On the other hand, violent interference for its destruction would exasperate indifference into zeal, and intensify faith into fanaticism, and give vitality to the system by investing a portion of its professors with the dignity of martyrdom. Forcible government interposition would seem to the world cruel, unnecessary, and in every sense inexpedient.

"THE INFAMY OF THE LEGISLATURE."

Under this cheerful and gentle heading the Harrisburg correspondent of the Philadelphia *Post* expresses the opinion from comparison by personal observation that the session of the Legislature which has just closed "was distinguished by recklessness on the part of the majority of the members which has found no parallel since 1862, when 'omnibus legislation' was in vogue. The system of passing bills merely by reading their titles was *only tolerated* in 1866—'67 and '68, but was adopted in 1869, and in 1870, and has proved itself *to be the most infamous thing ever practiced upon a community, and the chief instrument of bad legislation and deception.*"

The following is given as the patent process by which hundreds of bills were transformed into laws in the respective houses:

Clerk (reading the title)—A supplement to the act incorporating the city of Philadelphia.
Speaker—There being no objections to this bill it will be laid aside for a second reading.
Clerk—A supplement to the act incorporating the city of Philadelphia.
Speaker—Will the House agree to the bill?
Voices anywhere—Aye, aye.
Speaker—Will the House transcribe the bill, suspend the rule, and read the bill a third time by its title?
Voices—Aye.
Speaker—The bill passes.

The Legislature was in session sixty-five working days. In that time 2,168 bills were introduced into the House, and 2,118 into the Senate. The whole number actually passed by both Houses and sent to the Governor was 1,498.

What if it is not time to dispense with the old and worn out machinery, and set about getting new? Bad as they are, things will become worse. "Infamous" as is the present, there is no surety that the next Legislature will not be worse. The evil is monstrous and growing—of this there can be no question. The only question is, shall the sole remedy be applied? The COMMERCIAL has labored diligently to arouse public sentiment to the extent of the evil, and we are gratified in finding the press, though tardy in doing it, falling into our wake. Why should they not assist in applying the remedy at the same time they demonstrate the great necessity? That in time our demand for a State Convention to revise the Constitution will have the support of the press of both parties, we do not question. That there should be any delay occasions the only regret.

MR. WYNWOODE REED, so well known in connection with African geography and natural history, is at present engaged in a journey of exploration in Africa. He arrived at Monrovia, in Liberia, on the 11th of January, and has since been heard from at Bopora. This is described as "one of the centers of the Mandingo trade and of the Arabic literature of interior Africa." For us this tour of exploration possesses rather more than ordinary interest on account of its relation to Liberia. Mr. REED is an English gentleman of fortune who has devoted a great deal of time and attention to the study of Africa. When DU CHAILLU's first book was published in London, and the Frenchman's veracity had been vouched for by Sir RODERIK MURCHISON and other distinguished men of science. Mr. REED who was incredulous as to many of the statemenes of the book, became involved in a controversy on the subject. At length to satisfy himself and to convict DU CHAILLE of error, he went to the scene of his alleged discoveries, and for a considerable time followed up his tracks. His report was in part favorable and in part unfavorable to the Frenchman's veracity. While engaged in this way, Mr. REED became familiar with the people and institutions of Liberia. In his book entitled "Savage Africa," published some years ago, the view presented of the African intellect was not flattering. We are now informed that "Mr. REED's ideas concerning the mental capacity of the negro intellect have undergone considerable change, and that he is now inclined to give him a much higher place in the scale of humanity than he assigne him in that book." "Thus Liberians," he says, "are the most highly cultivated people he has met on the West coast of Africa." Another interesting circumstance connected with this expedition to Central Africa, is the fact that one of Mr. REED's companions is Prof. BLYDEN, a gentleman of unmixed African descent, who emigrated from this country to Liberia in 1851. He was educated in the Alexander High School there, of which, after a while, he became Principal. Already familiar with many languages, in 1866, he went to the Syrian Protestant College, on Mount Lebanon, where he studied Arabic, and thus acqired a qualification that completed his preparation for exploring the vast regions lying to the east of Liberia. In this work he is now occupied with Mr. REED. We are told that "numerous chiefs, headmen and Mohammedan priests have traveled hundreds of miles to visit Liberia and converse with Mr. BLYDEN. As he has visited Jerusalem, the 'Holy City,' he is regarded with great favor by the Mohammedans." Having spent one half of the thirty-eight years of his life in the West African republic, Mr. BLYDEN's opinion of the country ought to carry some weight. Of Liberia he speaks as "an area of negro freedom, and a scene for untrammelled growth and development," with "a wide and ever expanding field for benevolent effort," and with "an outlying or surrounding wilderness to be reclaimed, and the barbarisms of ages to be brought over to Christian life." The history, present condition and future prospects of Liberia form a subject of extraordinary interest to all who view it without prejudice. With every year and increasing knowledge distrust and misgivings must more and more vanish, and the gift of prophecy is not needed to foresee the time when commercial and industrial as well as philanthropic considerations must render that African commonwealth an object in regard to which no man of intelligence can afford to be indifferent.

ON the 9th instant, the American Anti-Slavery Society held its last meeting. Its first meeting was held thirty-seven years ago in Philadelphia, and of all who then assembled not one was present at the final gathering in New York. By the enactment of the Fifteenth Amendment the work of the Society has been completed and nothing more remains for it to do. People not very old can distinctly recollect with what abhorrence even good people looked upon the little band of zealous men and women the avowed object of whose organization was to remove slavery from the United States. The people of Pennsylvania had no love for slavery. If they knew anything about it either by personal observation or by report, they hated it. But it did not seem to be their sin, or burden; to charge them with responsibility in its existence seemed absurd and did not touch their consciences; while they did feel responsible for the maintenance of the union of the States which they had been brought up to regard with veneration as a sacred thing, and to cherish as the source of their liberties and happiness. Then, it cannot be fairly denied that the champions of freedom habitually used language about slavery which, even now in the light of all the past, would indicate a one sided and extravagant view of the ethical relations of the subject. Not that it is possible to represent slavery as too evil; but they in their enthusiastic devotion to a single idea, described the object of their hatred as worse than they or any body else knew it to be, until the day when the United States flag was fired upon at Fort Sumter. Though those early anti-slavery people did not exert or originate the influence which ultimately abolished the gigantic evil, they undoubtedly performed an important service by their agitation of the subject, in spite of their mischievous fanaticism. For all the contempt and persecutions they endured, they probably found abundant consolation and reward in the approval of their own hearts, or in the gratification derived from the conflict, and we may not feel called upon to cultivate thankfulness for their labors. Though possibly glad that there were such zealots in those days, the thoughtful reviewer of the past thirty-seven years can hardly fail to believe that if the moral and political opinions held and taught by those philanthropists had been adopted by a considerable number of the people of the North, if their counsels had been followed and thus become deeds, the great American Republic would have ceased to exist a decade or two ago, and there would to-day be a dozen or more independent Commonwealths in its stead, mutually jealous and often at war with one another. These fragmentary republics would probably all lie to the north of MASON and DIXON's line and the Ohio river, while the vast region on the southern side of these lines and stretching from the Atlantic to the Rocky Mountains would be occupied by a mighty oligarchy resting on the foundation of slavery.

In many of our cities it is too prevalent a practice for combinations to be formed between the medical practitioner and some special druggist. So long as this is confined to a selection based entirely on the merits of the druggist and his drugs it is commendable. When, however, it arises, as it does in many instances, from a commission paid by the druggist on all prescriptions sent by the physician, it is impossible to foretell the evils that may follow. A Coroner's inquest in the city of New York returns a verdict that JAMES O'NEILL died from heavy doses of morphine prescribed by Dr. BRONSON, and that BRONSON was in collusion with HENRY S. MARTIN, a druggist, in writing prescriptions contrary to the usual form. This means, as the evidence proves, that for some reason BRONSON desired all his prescriptions to go to the store of MARTIN, and in order that they should do so, wrote them in words no other druggist could understand, and even other physicians could not read. The consequence is readily foreseen. O'NEILL was discovered to be in danger, from an overdose of some narcotic; BRONSON being absent another physician was called in, and an examination of the prescription rendered him no wiser than he was before. MARTIN's clerk refused to translate the "blind," and by the time the information sought was obtained O'NEILL was dead. We do not seek to settle the dispute between the two physicians whether the doses were or were not too large. But we desire to point out the fact, that there is already mystery enough around the invalid, to insure him the full protection of the law, and the severest punishment of an offender who goes one step backward and places the sufferer in a condition that even a skilful physician may fail to comprehend. The community extends to the medical practitioner more confidence than to any other class or profession. Daily, we take nostrums we know nothing about solely on the confidence we have in our family physician. We sit quietly by while words that are meaningless to us are traced out, we pocket the recipe, we watch carelessly the druggist compound it, and we return home and administer it to some member of our family, perfectly ignorant of what we are giving. Who Dr. BRONSON is, or what his status as a physician may be, we know not; but we repeat that a punishment should be inflicted on both BRONSON and MARTIN of severity sufficient to alarm these per cent. dealers, and free the sick room from, at least, any more cabalism than now surrounds it.

AT the present time, indeed ever since the close of our civil war, American ideas have been invested with a fresh consecration in France, and are rapidly pervading and leavening the thoughts and prospects of the French masses. To close and interested observers of popular movements this influence is obvious, and it is no unreservedly declared by the reformers themselves, that Americans commit no offense against modesty when they refer to the fact with some satisfaction.

By way of curb upon our pride in this matter, it may be well to take notice that America is beginning to be spoken of in France as not exclusively the source of good influences. Evil practices have been introduced and are justified on the authority of our example. At least among a certain class of Frenchmen the habit of going constantly armed with pistols is growing very common, and the fashion is spoken of as an American institution. On this subject some interesting revelations were made during the trial of Prince PIERRE BONAPARTE. In responss to a question of the President of the Court, M. FONVILLE said: "It is my habit to always carry a pistol; I adopted it in America." Alluding to this statement, the President presently said: "America, of which you speak, has given us excellent things, but there are some fashions there which it would be well to leave to her." Another witness, M. MILLIERE, managing director of the *Marseillaise* newspaper, in the course of his testimony, said: "I had in my pocket my revolver, the sort called *coup de poing*, which I carry habitually since the 24th of June last for my personal defense." The witness afterwards informed the court that the pistol was a birth-day present from his wife to protect him against dangers too rife at this time, and that he considered it a merely defensive weapon.

The Prince on trial did not allow this remark to pass without comment. He began, "Defensive weapons are helmets, breast plates"—but was interrupted by one of the lawyers who said—"Yes, those were arms of the middle ages of which you are one of the heroes."

But these statements made at the famous trial are not the only evidence that the practice of carrying fire arms is becoming common in France. The fact is proved by the police reports. So many instances of their illegal use have lately occurred that a journalist says: "The revolver is entering into our manners and into our paletots, and we are fast getting to be downright Americans."

THURLOW WEED has written an interesting chapter on the selection of the LINCOLN Cabinet for his second term, more especially Secretary of the Treasury. Mr. WEED knows a great deal about Cabinet making and breaking in the past; and we are not without hope that he will let the world know in the manner SIMON CAMERON was brought into and thrust out of Mr. LINCOLN's Cabinet. There are several gentlemen living who could add some personal recollections both of the incoming and outgoing of CAMERON. FORNEY knows something about the latter movement; but since the reconciliation between himself and CAMERON, it is idle to expect a word from him, except, perhaps, as a dying confession to ease a burthened conscience. The secret, however, is fortunately confined to safe keepers, and will come out. Senator WILSON, who was led by Mr. CHASE into publishing an erroneous version of the manner CAMERON left the Cabinet, owes it to himself to let the world know that he was deceived and the facts as they have since came into his possession.

SPAIN is being rapidly drawn toward the vortex of revolution and anarchy. PRIM's power is sensibly weakened and no other has manifested itself fit to stand at the helm. The spirit of discontent is showing itself on every side. Conscription, added to a long list of complaints, seems likely to provoke a general outbreak. It may come at any moment. It will be Cuba's opportunity for striking the final blow. That the revolution has been able to hold out for it, is the best proof of its strength. If it be true that the revolutionists on the island are sorely pressed, it is no less a fact that Spain's weakness favors the idea that the question of the fate of her refractory subjects will find a solution in negotiations for the transfer of Cuba to the United States—or some other power. The latter contingency, it is true, has not been openly broached. But what if it should be? General GRANT's view of the acquisition of St. Domingo would then with tremendous force apply to Cuba. An offer to sell to the United States, as the natural outcome of the state of affairs in Spain and Cuba, is predicted. The contingency has evidently for some time been contemplated at Washington as the probable solution of the question. In case it is made, and a bargain struck, what will the opponents of the St. Domingo treaty say? If rejected, Spain like St. Domingo would be justified in seeking elsewhere a market—and she would probably do so. Indeed, in regard to both Cuba and St. Domingo the most probable thing is, that they will float into some other ownership—a statement which of itself demonstrates the sagacity of Gen. GRANT's St. Domingo policy. There is nothing forced or improbable in the supposition that St. Domingo, if we reject the present treaty, will be in the market, or that Cuba will be far behind her. There is nothing in the present condition or prospect of St. Domingo to forbid such an idea; nor does the present condition of affairs in Spain discredit the suggestion that she will seek a customer for the island while yet she can pretend to have a claim to ownership. It is not to be doubted that these are views entering into the Gen. GRANT's St. Domingo policy, and who will say that it is not a policy evincing sound practical statesmanship?

NO BODY, not even the wisest, is wise at all hours, and Senator CAMERON certainly committed a glaring indiscretion in claiming, while DAVIS was still alive to deny the fact, that he had, many years ago, foretold that a colored man would be his successor in the Senate. CAMERON is not wise, but he undoubtedly possesses a certain astuteness, a measure of the quality which has always made the fox a favorite with the fabulists, and one wonders that he selected any still living man as the depositary and the witness of his prophetic utterances. The Senator's vulpine faculties are undoubtedly failing him. He needs a monitor, a shrewd and vigilant person to perform for him the duties undertaken for the Archbishop of Grenada by GIL BLAS. That celebrated ecclesiastic's sermons did not more unmistakably savor of apoplexy than several of our distinguished jobber's recent manœuvres savor of declining genius for intrigue. His failure in the *role* of prophet was more ignominious though not much more obvious than his failure on Tuesday last in the character of patriot. On that day he offered a resolution to secure some appropriate testimonial in honor of the Pennsylvania and Massachusetts volunteers who were the first troops to respond to the first war proclamation of the President. We and all Americans say from the heart, all honor to the men who thus responded! When the country forgets their services, it will deserve to perish. But were not tens of thousands of gallant and patriotic men over the area of many States preparing as fast as possible to hurry on to Washington in response to the call? These men were just as worthy of honor as the men who first reached the scene of service, and it really seems puerile, if not unjust, to award special and peculiar distinction to the patriots who arrived first on the ground because they happened to be nearer it, or in a condition of preparation. This was the view of the majority of the Senators, as was apparent in the course of the debate to which the resolution gave rise.

Many Senators in succession put in claims of equal honor for their own States, and before the whole subject was disposed of by a reference to the Military Committee, the discussion had degenerated into a comedy, or rather a farce. And so vanished into thin air, or rather exploded in Senatorial laughter, another of our unveneable representative's traps for catching a little popularity.

Two or three weeks ago General PRIM was assailed in the streets of Madrid by a mob which had just held a meeting in opposition to the military conscription. Some one of the rabble threw a stone which hit the General on the back. On the next day General PRIM made a speech to the Cortes in which he gave an account of the affair. He said, "